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# US DROPS PARTITION PLAN

## Singapore Polling Today

### ELECTING 6 LEG. CO. MEMBERS

Singapore, Mar. 20.—Singapore residents, for the first time since World War I, will today go to the polls to elect six of the 22 members of the new Singapore Legislative Council, which will be inaugurated on April 1.

This first step towards self-government has aroused much interest and is expected to prove a stimulating introduction to Western democratic electoral processes.

Fifteen candidates—seven Indians, five Chinese, one Malay, one European and one Eurasian—are contesting the six seats.

The Leftwing, made up of the Communist Party, the All-Malaya Council of Joint Action and the Malay Party Putera, have boycotted the elections because of what they believe to be the inadequate representation of only six seats out of the 22.

### NINE "OFFICIALS"

Nine members of the Council will be "officials" nominated by the Governor, Sir Franklin Gibson, and four "unofficial" members will be nominated by the Governor to represent the minority communities or otherwise unrepresented interests.

One each will be nominated by the Singapore European, Chinese and Indian Chambers of Commerce.

The Leftwing parties believed they could win all the remaining six seats if they contested the election, but would have no real power in a majority-dominated Council.

So, while the other candidates have been busily campaigning, Leftwing meetings have been held, urging registered voters not to vote.

### SEPARATE FROM MALAYA

The Leftwing parties demand a fully-elected Council, Singapore's inclusion in the Federation of Malaya, and a wide common citizenship.

The colony of Singapore Island is entirely separate from the Federation of Malaya, made up of nine Malay States and the former Straits Settlements of Penang and Malacca.

Only 23,000 of the 150,000 eligible persons, with British nationality, have registered to vote.

Electoral programmes issued by candidates propose more or less identical reforms including a drastic pruning of Government expenditure, compulsory and free primary education, increased employment of locally born Government officers instead of overseas men, improved health and social services, and an early increase in the number of elected representatives on the Council.—Reuter.

### EDITORIAL

## Meaning Of Brussels Pact

THE conclusion of a political, economic and defensive alliance between Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg, and the Paris meeting of the European Economic Cooperation Committee to agree on ways and means of applying the Marshall Plan to the 16 nations which desire to share its benefits have a very definite connection, even though they are not pursuing identical objects. The Five-Power security pact is a natural development of the Franco-British alliance signed at Dunkirk a year ago. The necessity of co-ordinating political and economic requirements was recognised long before the Communist coup d'état in France lent special urgency to the work of the Western European Union, although it is fair to assume that the progress made at the Brussels conference might have been less rapid without the Russo-Czechoslovak reminder that consolidation of Western Europe could no longer be delayed. The connection between the Brussels conference and the Paris meeting of Foreign Ministers is, of course, that the western countries represented at Brussels wish to work in collaboration with the economic machinery of the United Nations and with the arrangements made in Paris for the allotment of aid to Europe under the Marshall Plan. It therefore appears that the pact signed in

### Tornadoes Take Toll

Chicago, Mar. 19.—At least 30 persons were reported killed today by a series of tornadoes that battered a trail of death and destruction across the Middle-Western United States from Texas to Ohio. Fully 300 and possibly many more were injured and property damage ran into unestimated millions of dollars.

Schools, churches, factories, stores and homes in the paths of the twisters were leveled or damaged.

Tornadoes or high winds struck in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Illinois was hit hard. At least 36 of the deaths were reported in that State and other hundreds were reported injured. The Red Cross reported that Bunker Hill, a community of 1,500 persons, was 80 percent leveled and 14 of its inhabitants killed.—Associated Press.

### It Means:

## THE FILE HAS BEEN LOST

London, Mar. 19.—On a motion for adjourning the House of Commons last night, Mr E. H. Keeling, Conservative Member for Twickenham, took the opportunity to attack Government jargon.

He said that if a Government department says: "The matter is under active consideration," it means: "The file has been lost," and went on to give other examples: implement for fulfilment for one-sided, unfavourable weather conditions for bad weather, sabotage for wreck. "Typists do not understand hyphens—they are not taught them," Mr Keeling declared.

Mr Glenville Hall, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, admitted that part of it was due to phrasing, "hallored by long use."

He quoted Mr Winston Churchill as having written in the margin of a Whitehall document: "This is nonsense, up with which I will not put" (Laughter).

Finally Mr Hall said: "Letters from departments are shop-windows of democracy. They should be couched in simple friendly straightforward language. The Government is doing its best to see that Whitehall conforms to the ideals suggested."—Reuter.

## Suggests Temporary U.N. Trusteeship

Lake Success, Mar. 19.—American support for the General Assembly partition proposals for Palestine has been withdrawn and a temporary trusteeship regime for the whole of Palestine is proposed, the United States delegation to the United Nations officially announced tonight. The American statement was made during a "Big Four" meeting at which Sir Alexander Cadogan (Britain) was present.

If the Security Council adopts the United States proposal a special session of the General Assembly will have to be called to reconsider the whole Palestine problem. China and France indicated that they will support the United States proposal. M. Andrei Gromyko (Russia) said: "It is in striking contradiction with the General Assembly's resolution, but I cannot give direct or indirect consent until I have further instructions."

Here are the three main points which Mr Warren Austin, the United States' delegate, will propose to the Security Council:

First—"The plan proposed by the General Assembly is an integral plan which cannot succeed unless each of its parts can be carried out. There seems to be a general agreement that the plan cannot now be implemented by peaceful means".

Second—"We believe that further steps must be taken immediately not only to maintain peace, but also to afford a further opportunity to reach agreement between the interested parties regarding a future government of Palestine".

"To this end, we believe that a temporary trusteeship for Palestine should be established under the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations."

### WITHOUT PREJUDICE

"Such a United Nations trusteeship would be without prejudice to the rights, claims or position of the parties concerned, or to the character of the eventual political settlement, which we hope can be achieved without a long delay."

"In our opinion, the Security Council should recommend the establishment of such a trusteeship to the General Assembly and to the mandatory power."

"This would require an immediate special session of the General Assembly, which the Security Council should request the Secretary General to convene under Article 20 of the Charter."

Third—"Pending a meeting of the proposed special session of the General Assembly, we believe the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its efforts to implement the proposed partition plan."

### GROMYKO'S OBJECTION

M. Gromyko objected to that part of Mr Austin's statement which said that there "seems to be general agreement that the partition plan could not now be implemented by peaceful means."

M. Gromyko said there was not general agreement on the part of his delegation.

Dr T. F. Tsang (China) said it was evident that no solution could be found agreeable to both parties and that a continuation of the situation might lead to war.

The United Nations had no right to sponsor such a scheme if it could lead to war, he said.

M. Alexandre Parodi (France) said that the United States proposal was in line with the general thinking of his Government. The plan should be studied particularly in its legal aspects, he said, adding that he required time for instructions.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr Trygve Lie, reminded the others that the question of a trusteeship for Palestine was discussed originally by the Special Committee on Palestine, but that the idea was eventually dropped because UNSCOP thought trusteeship would be opposed by both sides, and the United Nations would thus require larger forces to enforce a settlement.

### DR. LIE'S QUESTION

Dr Trygve Lie said he was obliged to ask whether, if the United States proposal were put into effect, the big powers were prepared to see it carried through.

### JERUSALEM ADMINISTRATION

"With regard to the city of Jerusalem, the Commission's view is that the administration of the city of Jerusalem by the United Nations is possible if the plan of partition with economic union is generally accepted by the Arab and Jewish communities of Palestine and peacefully implemented."

Dr. Lie then reviewed the statements made at various times by the Jews, Arabs and the British authorities. Taking these statements into account, he said it was necessary to reflect what the situation in Palestine would be on May 15 when the mandate is terminated. (Continued on Page 12)

## Hotel Boys Walk Out



A group of Hongkong Hotel boys, "Captains," and coolies caught by the camera a few moments after they had gone on strike at midday yesterday. The walk out affects the Hongkong, Peninsula and Repulse Bay hotels as well as the Repulse Bay Lido.—Francis Wu.

## CZECHS' NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

### Communist Appointed

Prague, Mar. 19.—Prague radio announced on Friday afternoon that Blado Clementis, a Communist, has been named Czechoslovak Foreign Minister to succeed the late Jan Masaryk.

Clementis, a 40 year old Slovak, had been Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. For several years he was Masaryk's Chief Assistant.

It was announced that the Office of Foreign Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs have been combined. Clementis, a lawyer, will carry out the functions of both.

### WORKED IN ENGLAND

Although he has been an energetic worker for Communist causes for many years, Clementis has many associations with western nations. He speaks English and French fluently.

In 1935 he was a Communist Deputy representing a Slovak district in the Prague Parliament.

On the occupation of the country by the Germans he fled to Poland, Russia and ultimately reached France. There he was interned by the Vichy Government.

After the fall of France he went to England. He became Head of the Slovak section of the British broadcasting sections and for several years of the war kept his homeland informed of world events. For a time he was a journalist in France and England.

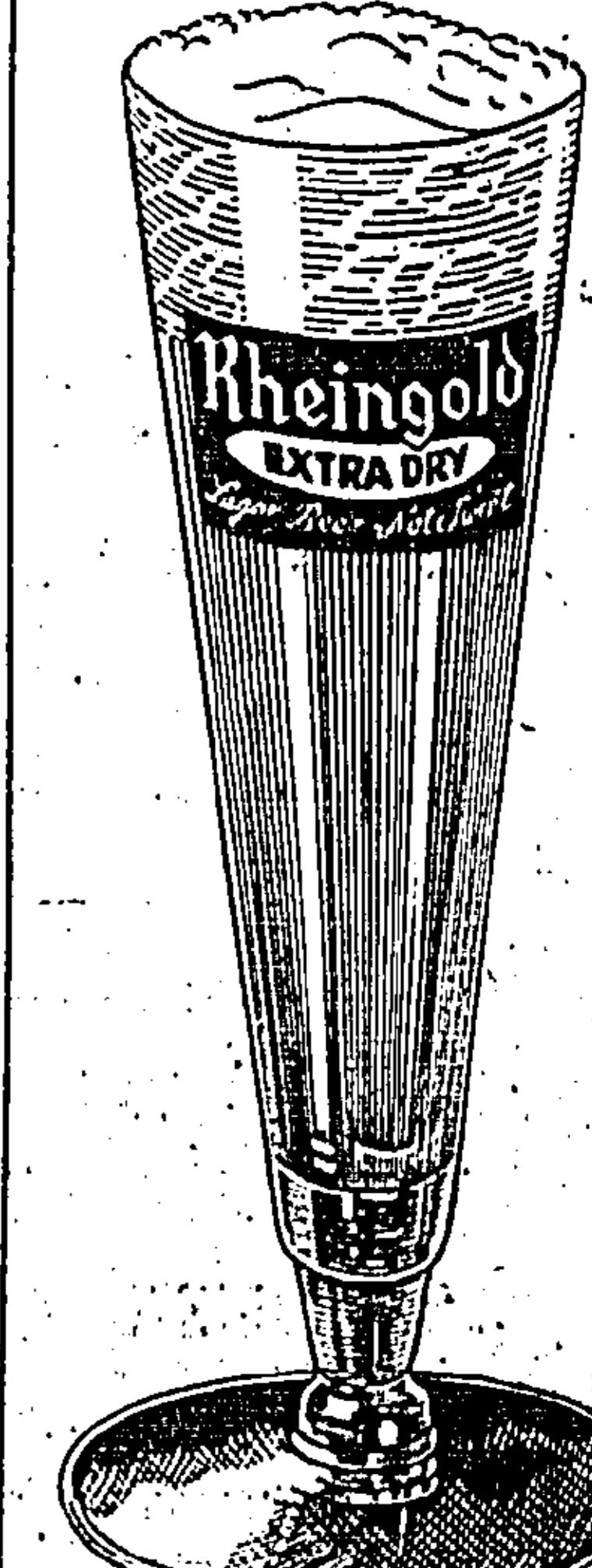
In 1942 Clementis became a member of the Slovak State Council in London. Now he is a member of the Slovak National Council.

The composition of the Communist dominated Cabinet is unchanged by the appointment.

As Secretary of State Clementis previously had Cabinet rank.—Associated Press.

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## Norway Makes Preparations

Oslo, Mar. 19.—Norway announced today new call-up measures and the extension of existing conscription as a final effect of this week's Parliamentary vote of an extra 100,000 kroner for defence.

Less than 24 hours after the Prime Minister, M. Elmer Gerhardsen, had joined the Swedish and Danish Prime Ministers in denouncing Communism at Stockholm, the Government announced that those now serving their nine months military service could be retained for another three months.

Those who have already served up to 18 months could be called up for extra training.

Certain technicians could also be retained or recalled for training over the 12 months service.

These new measures are not universal, but more a select mobilisation in which each case will be decided individually.—Reuter.

## QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m. TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



ADDED! Latest METRO News!

SUNDAY MORNING SHOW —



AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY —

HUMPHREY BOGART in

"PASSAGE TO MARSEILLES"

AT REDUCED PRICES!

SHOWING  
TO-DAY

**MAJESTIC**

AT 2.30, 5.20,  
7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



NEXT CHANGE: "GREEN FOR DANGER"

## ORIENTAL

COMMENCING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.  
IT'S THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS WITH A STORY AS ITS STARS! ROMANCE & EXCITEMENT!



SPECIAL SUNDAY MORNING SHOW AT 12.30  
UNIVERSAL'S THRILLER  
"HOUSE OF DRACULA"

A WEALTH OF ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION KING'S THEATRE presents

The SEVENTH Programme of the New Series by arrangement with International Films and Government Public Relations Office

Saturday, 20th March . . Sunday, 21st March  
10.30 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 1 p.m.

1. Coloured Cartoon.
2. Crime Justice.
3. The Crisis in Czechoslovakia—Latest Pathé Newsreel.
4. Malaya—Eats-in MANDARIN DIALOGUE.
5. MARCH OF TIME—Soviet Neighbour.
6. Coloured Cartoon.

Three shows each morning — ADMISSION ONE DOLLAR.

A Seat in the Stalls

# ...Can he forgive her war mistake?



Loretta Young as a Swedish maid who runs for Congress in "The Farmer's Daughter," opening tomorrow at the King's.

## Noel Coward writes a screen comedy

NOEL COWARD, now in New York, is writing a new comedy direct for the screen. At a time when blood, tears and sweat (with an occasional whipping) are the fashion for British films, his gesture is welcome.

He is substituting the new script for a projected film version of his play, "Peace in our Time." Coward thinks this is not a propitious time for offering the story of a Nazi occupation of Britain to cinema audiences. In fact, studios generally seem to be fighting shy of war stories at last. The Rank organization had announced a screen version of an H. E. Bates novel about Allied sabotage in France; now it may be postponed indefinitely.

The Coward picture will be made by Filippo Del Giudice's company. It will be one of three "Del" productions to be financed by the industrialist W. G. Riley following completion of "The Guinea Pig" by the Boulting Brothers.

Others are "Private Angelo," adapted from Eric Linklater's novel, to be directed in Italy by Peter Ustinov; and a screen version of the Irish fantasy, "Happy as Larry".

THE girl students of California University have voted Ronald Colman, 56, the handsomest man in the United States. Mr Colman refuses to comment. Award-making is in the air.

At a Biltmore Bowl dinner on Feb. 25, Jimmy Durante received a Heart of Gold Award, for never having refused to do a charity show in the past 23 years.

## CHARITY GALA PREMIERE



### THEATRE Directory

#### Today's Films

- QUEEN'S—*Gallant Bess* (Marshall Thompson, George Tobias).
- KING'S—*The Wistful Widow of Wagon Gap* (Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, Marjorie Main).
- LEE—*The Unfaithful* (Ann Sheridan, Lew Ayres, Zachary Scott).
- CENTRAL—*This Man's Navy* (Wallace Beery).
- ORIENTAL—*Variety Girl*. (All Star Cast).
- CATHAY—*The Time of Their Lives* (Bud Abbott, Lou Costello).
- ALHAMBRA—*Gallant Bess*.
- MAJESTIC—*The Unfinished Dance* (Margaret O'Brien, Cyd Charisse).
- STAR—*Cover Girl* (Rita Hayworth, Gene Kelly).

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YOUR RADIO LISTENING FOR NEXT WEEK IN DETAIL—A "TELEGRAPH" FEATURE

# THREE IMPORTANT BROADCASTS SCHEDULED

## Description Of Grand National Tonight

### GOOD FRIDAY FEATURE

ZBW has three important broadcasts during the next seven days. Two of them will be heard tonight (Saturday), and the third next Friday.

Sports fans, particularly those interested in racing will desire to tune in tonight to the relay of the Grand National. This will be heard at 10 p.m. Hongkong Time.

At 7.15 this evening Lord Listowel, Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, will give a talk in the new ZBW feature, "Saturday Round-Up."

On Friday next (Good Friday), highlight of the day's programmes will be Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" at 9.15 p.m.

#### MUSICAL MASTERPIECE

"The Passion According to St. Matthew" by Johann Sebastian Bach is one of the greatest of musical masterpieces. It was first performed at St. Thomas' Church, Leipzig, where Bach was organist and director of music on Good Friday 1729. It was neglected after his death but was revived a century later by Mendelssohn, who soon after became conductor of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig. The present recording is by the Choir of St. Thomas' Church and the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig.

The words, which are sung in German, are from Chapters 20 and 27 of St. Matthew's Gospel. The narrator is a tenor, the part of Jesus (always accompanied by a string quartet) a bass, and other solo parts are sung by soprano, mezzo, baritone and bass. There are two choirs, both of which join in the chorales, and the orchestra is composed of stringed instruments, oboes and flutes.

#### A SUMMARY

The recording is on 25 sides. The following is a summary:

**Prologue.** Chorus: "Come, ye daughters, weep for anguish!" Narrative begins. Jesus foretells His death; Anointing at Bethany. Mezzo-soprano solo: "Grief for sin!" Trespass of Judas. Soprano solo: "Break in grief, thou loving heart!" Last supper. Chorale: "Receive me, my Redeemer!" Agony in Garden. Tenor solo: "I would beside my Lord!" Betrayal and arrest. Soprano and mezzo duet: "Behold, my Saviour now is taken;" Chorale: "O man, thy grievous sin becometh." The daughter of Zion seeks the Saviour. Mezzo-soprano solo: "Ah! now is my Saviour gone;" Jesus before Caiphas; The denial of Peter; The despair of Judas. Baritone solo: "Give, Oh give me back my Lord;" Jesus before Pilate. Barabbas. Soprano solo: "For love my Saviour now is dying;" The scourging. Mezzo-soprano solo: "O gracious God!" The crowning with Thorns. Chorale: "O Sacred Head;" The crucifixion. Tenor, bass and mezzo duet: "O Golgotha! The death of Jesus." Chorale: "Beneath the Lord." The descent from the cross. Bass solo: "All is eventide!" The burial of Jesus; Chorale: "In tears of grief."

#### Tonight

12.30 Daily Programme Summary.

12.32 BBC Transcription Service: "Music for Romance" Reg Leopold and His Players with Jack Cooper to play.

How-blue-the-night-(Moliere)-Lovely Waltz in C sharp minor (Chopin); Moonlight Waltz (Albini); Waltz (Rossi); An English Prayer (Merlin); To a wild rose (MacDowell); Tea for Two (Younman); 1.02 Begin The Beguine.

Begin the Beguine (Cole Porter); Eddie Haasway and His Orchestra; Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto; B Flat Minor (Beguine); Art Falton-Kay; Guitars; Wanda Landau; Violin; Orch; Come closer to me (from "Love to wed"); Farres (Beguine); Autumn Serenade (D. Rose); Roberto, Ingles, and His Orchestra; Fantasy Impromptu (Chopin); Beguine to begin (H. G. Orch).

12.33 NEWS, WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1.25 Orchestral Interlude.

Waldstein Memories-D. Groot and His Orchestra.

1.30 London Promenade Orchestra.

Zampa—Overture (Berold); Polonaise, Act 3 "Eugen Onegin" (Tchaikovsky); A. Lissitzen State No. 2 (Sibel); Conducted by Artur Fiedler.

2.00 Close Down.

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Waltz (Rossi); An English Prayer (Merlin); To a wild rose (MacDowell); Tea for Two (Younman); 1.02 Begin The Beguine.

Begin the Beguine (Cole Porter); Eddie Haasway and His Orchestra; Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto; B Flat Minor (Beguine); Art Falton-Kay; Guitars; Wanda Landau; Violin; Orch; Come closer to me (from "Love to wed"); Farres (Beguine); Autumn Serenade (D. Rose); Roberto, Ingles, and His Orchestra; Fantasy Impromptu (Chopin); Beguine to begin (H. G. Orch).

12.33 NEWS, WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1.25 Orchestral Interlude.

Waldstein Memories-D. Groot and His Orchestra.

1.30 London Promenade Orchestra.

Zampa—Overture (Berold); Polonaise, Act 3 "Eugen Onegin" (Tchaikovsky); A. Lissitzen State No. 2 (Sibel); Conducted by Artur Fiedler.

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12.33 NEWS, WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

# Tempers toughen on 49th Parallel

NIAGARA FALLS. A THOUSAND feet of packed ice and the cost of the Marshall plan divide the twin towns of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, and Niagara Falls, New York State, perched on either side of the international gorge.

The ice will soften with the spring. But I have to report that the feeling between the towns is hardening.

Three hundred miles north, in Canada's capital of Ottawa, external affairs officials admit that relations between Canada and the United States have deteriorated since the war.

It is still a far cry from the days when a Canadian election was won on the slogan "No truck or trade with the Yankees," but there is some animosity along that invisible line of the 49th Parallel. In the twin towns of Niagara it crystallises as arising from the Marshall plan, with the grievances on the Canadian side.

## Canada's share

GRIEVANCE No. 1 is a feeling that the people of the States are becoming arrogant in believing that they alone are the savours of Europe and do not realise that, man for man, Canada has done and is doing much more. Take a quick look at the figures.

## At the grocer's

GRIEVANCE No. 2 is based on the worldwide shortage of U.S. dollars. To conserve U.S. dollars, Canada has barred the imports of many U.S. goods; put heavy taxes and import quotas on others.

The result is that Bill Bennett can bring nothing back from a trip to the States. Even the usual Customs allowance of 200 cigarettes is banned, so that he has to pay the Canadian price of 1s. 6d. for 20, while Ralph Hous gets them at the U.S. price of 1s. But there is no ban on the U.S. side.

Sandy-haired Bill Bennett, director of the Canadian Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, who served overseas in both wars, does not mind paying twice as much as Ralph D. Hous, his opposite number, a mile away across the gorge, similarly cheaper, 25s. becomes

*Here on the border,  
Canada is getting  
resentful at being  
mistaken for the  
Poor Relation...*

by JAMES COOPER

But he would like Mr Hous and the other U.S. citizens to realise it.

Mr Bennett, as nearest chamber of commerce official to the border,

finds that most people he meets from the U.S. know nothing of Canada's contribution, and some of them even think that Canada fought the war on Lense-Lend.

Across the 1,450-foot Rainbow Bridge, built six years ago, I went to the United States to talk to the man in the street. Policeman 100, Clinton James Smith, stopped chewing gum when I asked if he knew about Canada's contribution to the Marshall plan. He said: "But that's purely a U.S. project."

A man with a cigar said: "We're all in the Marshall plan, but I guess Uncle Sam foots the bill." Even Mr Hous, in the chamber of commerce, raised his George Robey eyebrows at the proportion of Canada's share, and asked to see newspaper cutting to prove it.

Then the U.S. Department of Justice issued subpoena calling on Canadian newsprint companies to produce records for the inquiry into alleged violation of anti-trust laws.

U.S. newspapers joined in calling it an insult to Canada and a breach of her sovereign rights.

Finally the summons were withdrawn, and the department said that in future they would first ask the help of the Canadian Government.

When Mr Bennett, Minister of Fuel and Power, confessed publicly that he never has many hot baths and advised the people of Britain to follow his example, he really did make history.

For that was the first time for 3,000 years that any law-giver told a people not to bathe.

Clean contrary are the injunctions of Maniou, the law-giver of the Hindus, of Zoroaster, prophet of the Persians, of Moses and of Mahomet.

All these and a hundred others bade their people bathe; and bathe in warm water.

FOR WOMEN ONLY?

FAR back as I go into the history of man, I find adjunctions to the bath that purify the body.

But I must add that 1,000 years ago there was a very saintly gentleman in Alexandria called Clement who said that baths were only necessary for women; which is pretty much what Mrs Gaitskell told a reporter when trying to help her incautious husband out of his troubles.

Mahomet laid down that his followers must never offer up a prayer without first washing up to the elbows, and were there any dirt on their bodies, taking a bath (the Moslem offers...his...prayers five times every day).

It is true that till the middle of last century most working men in Britain had only two baths, one the day that they were born and one the day that they died, and it was not until 1846 that the first Act was passed "to establish baths and washhouses for the health, comfort, and welfare of populous towns."

Within 30 years it happened the bath rate dropped from one in 40 to one in 4 of the population.

That, of course, may not have been altogether because of the hot baths.

Still, it is striking that last of the great plagues of 1849, was never followed by anything comparable after the habit of hot baths became general.

HIPPOCRATES SAID...

IN the ancient world the practice of taking hot baths was no more questioned than it has been in our own day—up till Mr Gaitskell's announcement, of course.

Not only the lawgivers, but also the philosophers of the first civilisations were insistent on the benefits to be derived from them.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine (B.C. 400), was always recommending warm baths. Galen (A.D. 130), the greatest doctor the Romans possessed, believed them necessary to the public health.

Every Roman villa had its bath and, under Augustus, Rome had 850 public baths, some large enough for 1,000 people.

The reason for the fall off in hot baths was economic and political: in the fourth century just as it looks like being in the twentieth.

The barbarians who broke into the Roman Empire cut the aqueducts. They also wrecked the heating system, and the art was not discovered again.

SEE MY FEET

AT the start of the eighteenth century, when someone told Lady Mary Montague that her hands were dirty she exclaimed: "My hands, you ought to see my feet!"

But at the end of it the Irish surgeon, Bertrand Rutherford, chief medical officer in the Bavarian service, wrote: "What an addition it would be to the enjoyment of the inhabitants of more favoured countries to add the warm bath of the Russian to all their local advantages."

For the Russians, like the Turks, never stopped bathing.

When the Empress Maria Theresa visited Florence in the 1750's a special bathroom was built for her at the Pitti Palace with a sunken bath of alabaster and golden taps.

# POTATOES HAVE A HISTORY

L ET'S talk about potatoes. In the ordinary way they are something you take for granted, but when they're scarce, as they are in Britain, they suddenly become interesting.

We'll start with the name. It comes from the Spanish *patata*, and the Spaniards got it from the Indians in Haiti, who pronounced it *batata*. The interesting thing is that *batata* does not and never did mean the potato we now know.

It means the sweet potato, which was discovered first and is quite a different vegetable, as you will know if you have ever had one. The Spaniards found the real potato, the *batata*, over there, *queued up* for some time later when they pushed through to the Pacific coast of South America.

They brought it back to Europe around 1580, and to distinguish it from the previously known sweet variety, it was called the *Bastard Potato*.

For a long time in this country it was called the Virginian Potato and Sir Walter Raleigh is supposed to have brought it over from there and introduced it to Ireland. This can't be true, because neither he nor any of his men ever went to Virginia, and anyway they were not grown there till nearly 100 years after Raleigh died.

Just to make it more confusing, the Virginians themselves have always believed that their potatoes came from Ireland, and to this day they are still known in the Southern States as "Irish potatoes."

## Acquitted

NOW for a bit of botany. The potato belongs to the same family of plants as the tomato, tobacco and deadly nightshade. For this reason people used to think potatoes were poisonous. As a matter of fact the tops of the plants are poisonous. But just lately it's been found that if you treat them with salt they can be fed to cattle.

The tubers that you eat are not roots. They are underground stems and the eyes are buds. Roots don't have buds, according to Mr Chapman Pincher.

The potatoes that the Spaniards found growing in Chile were about the size of walnuts and all those in use today were developed from these. In 1938 a gardener at Rouen in France grew a potato that weighed 1lb. 11oz., and in 1937 a man near Bournemouth had four potato plants that went on growing till they were 10ft. 10ins. high.



by  
**BERNARD  
WICKSTEED**

*It's fun finding out.*

There are now several thousand different sorts of potato and the people who develop them are not called potato growers but potato breeders.

In Britain, potato breeders take their work very seriously and hold national field trials. In 1911 a Scottish breeder called Matthew Wallace was knighted because he bred such good potatoes, and Donald McElroy from Argyll got the O.B.E. in 1943 for the same thing.

The brightest suggestion I have dug up is that it comes from the initials of the Society for the Prevention of Unwholesome Diet.

Spuds And Weight

ARE potatoes unwholesome? Some

people say they make you fat, but in America at this moment there is a Miss Potato Blossom who is touring the country saying they don't.

She eats a baked potato every day and keeps her weight down to nine stone two.

Potatoes are probably the only vegetables that have had a war named after them. You will find out about it in any history book.

It was fought in 1778-9 between the Prussians and the Austrians, and got its name because, instead of doing any real fighting, each side spent most of the time trying to stop the other lot from getting anything to eat.

Since then wars have been fought with potatoes as well as about them.

If you pull them up, mix the mash with malt until it ferments and then distill it, you can get alcohol. And from the alcohol you can make high explosives. We did it in the last war and so did the Germans.

At one time most potatoes had knobs on, but breeders have now reduced them to a fairly uniform shape. Nevertheless, there are still occasional freaks. At various times there were potatoes that were alleged to be eaten by mice.

Nowadays a potato is a potato and you eat it whatever the size or shape, but just before the war there was an institution called the Potato Marketing Board, which made it illegal to sell a potato to the public if it weighed more than a pound or measured less than 1½ inches in length.

In those days if you bought a good-sized potato for roasting in its jacket the farmer who sold it could be fined £100. But times change, and he could be fined now if he refused to sell it.

In America the craze for eating, drinking, driving cars and creating explosions they can afford into your potato, and that in turn is often called *fartina* and that in its turn has a wide variety of uses. Cooks put it in puddings. Lancashire cotton manufacturers use it in one of their finishing processes, and mothers powder their babies with it.

The patterns on hand-printed curtains are often put on with blocks made of raw potatoes.

The civilised spud has become a hypochondriac. It has to be treated for diseases caused by different kinds of virus, fungus and bacteria and it is preyed on by leafhoppers, caterpillars and the Colorado beetle.

About 50 Colarados were found in Britain last year and 75 in 1946.

worth about 3s. 6d. One Saturday morning Mr Bennett counted the cars outside one Canadian grocer's. At one time there were 34 with the orange licence plates of New York State, not one with the royal blue plates of Ontario Province.

## Discount'

GRIEVANCE No. 3 is the discount on Canadian dollars. Once a Canadian dollar was worth 90 cents U.S., but now the two are officially at par. A U.S. dollar in Canada is worth 100 cents. But take a Canadian dollar into Niagara Falls, N.Y., and every shopkeeper deducts 10 percent.

"Discount," said the girl in the cigar store when she gave me 22 U.S. cents for a Canadian 25-cent piece. I wanted change to use the three-pence-an-hour car parking meter.

Says Canadian Mr Bennett: "It makes us like poor relations."

Says U.S. Mr Hous: "We have a grievance, too. Our tourists grumble when they come back from Canada and get only 90 cents for any Canadian dollar they got in exchange."

## High-handed

GRIEVANCE No. 4 is what Mr Bennett's businessmen members call the high-handedness of the States. Nearest the border they feel it first.

They are still sore at Colonel Monroe Johnson, of the Office of Defence Transport in Washington, who banned U.S. coal wagons going into Canada over the Canadian National Railways last August because, he said, empty wagons were not being returned quickly enough.

The ban was lifted when Ottawa made a vigorous protest to the White House.

Then the U.S. Department of Justice issued subpoena calling on Canadian newsprint companies to produce records for the inquiry into alleged violation of anti-trust laws.

U.S. newspapers joined in calling it an insult to Canada and a breach of her sovereign rights.

Finally the summons were withdrawn, and the department said that in future they would first ask the help of the Canadian Government.

## Viewpoints

SAYS Canadian Mr Bennett: "It is this way of taking us for granted that makes Canadians sore."

Mr Hous thinks rather that it is thoughtlessness. He smiled. "It's the old story. Our Niagara Falls has 90,000 people, Canada's 20,000. The States has 140,000,000, Canada 12,000,000. And the little fellow is always suspicious of the big guy."

Mr Hous thought of only one complaint to answer all the Canadians. He said: "Because we are more populous, more prosperous, it tends to make the Canadians



"Moths. Sir Edward. MOths!"

## WHERE MR GAITSKELL & HISTORY DISAGREE

By GEORGE EDINGER

WHEN Mr Gaitskell, Minister of Fuel and Power,

confessed publicly that he never has many hot baths and advised the people of Britain to follow his example, he really did make history.

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But I must add that 1,000 years ago there was a very saintly gentleman in Alexandria called Clement who said that baths were only necessary for women; which is pretty much what Mrs Gaitskell told a reporter when trying to help her incautious husband out of his troubles.

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NEVER HAD ONE

A LADY at the Court of Louis XVI. lived long enough to tell a friend in 1840 that she never took a bath till she was 50 years old.

Twenty years ago, an elder of Ecclaechein avowed that he knew a lady of 90 who never had a bath since she was born.

There was an eminent Edwardian doctor, Sir Almroth Wright, who set out to prove how many hot baths

with the applying of soap to the body (soap was not hot water) removed a protective ring upon the human body that kept out microbes.

Now Clement, the old lady at Ecclaechein, Sir Almroth Wright and Mr Gaitskell can point out that a number of people died because they enjoyed their baths.

They probably were.

But it is not true that the early Church pronounced against the bath.

They probably were.

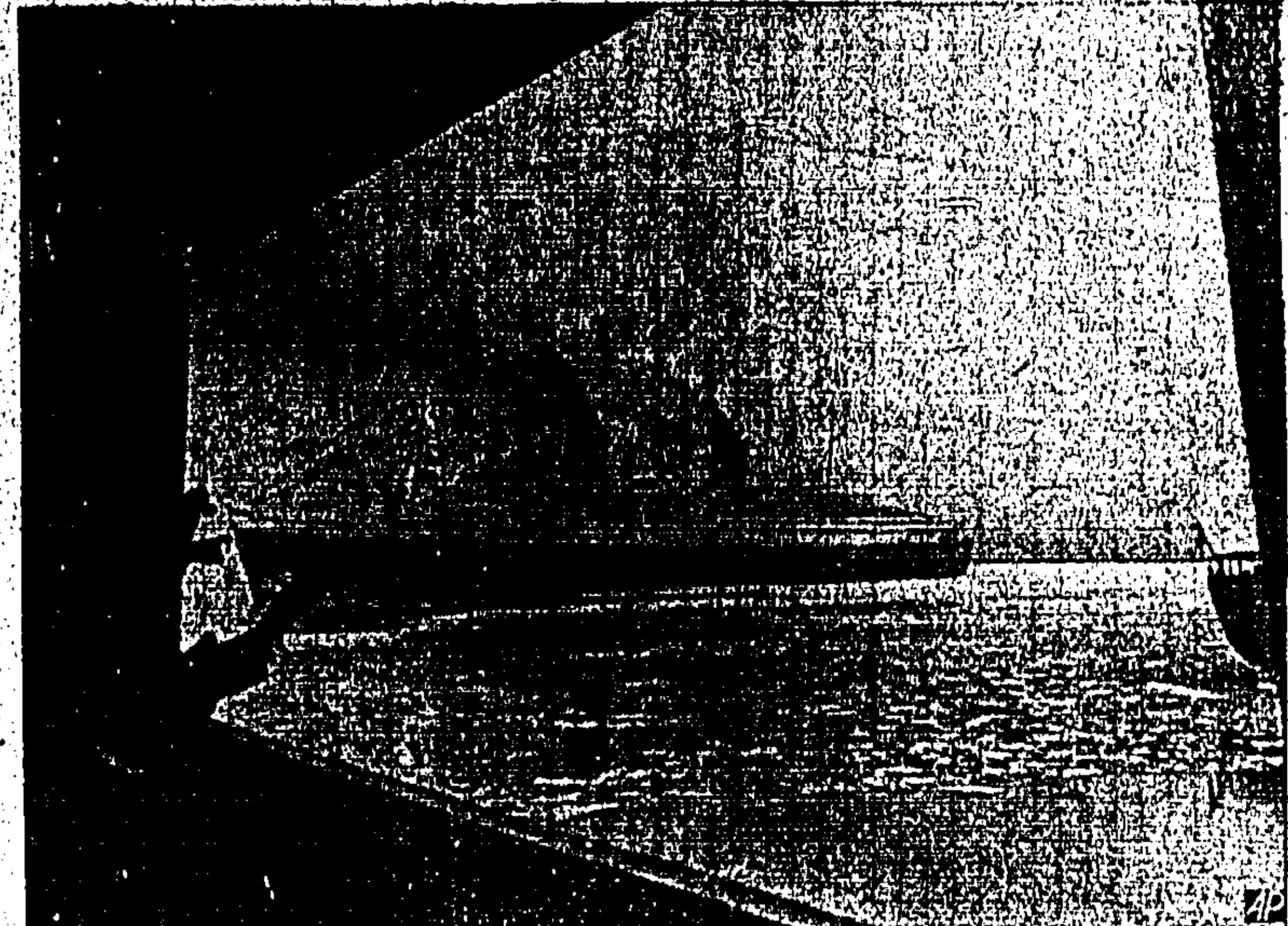
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**PREPARING FOR ARABS**—Sandbags for defense works are filled by Jewish girls in Jerusalem's Montefiore quarter. The girls belong to a few families remaining with members of the Haganah in the section which has been under attack by Arab snipers.



**PALS**—Momarv's Blue Devil, old English sheep dog owned by Mrs. Mona Kucker, of Harrison, New York, looks down at the tiny chihuahua, Olenik's Princess Patricia, at the New York dog show.



**THE QUEEN IS OFF TO EUROPE**—The British liner Queen Elizabeth sails from her pier through the mist and icy waters of New York harbour en route to Europe.



**BEAUTY QUEENS MEET**—Jacqueline Donny (left), Miss Paris of 1947, and Audrey Smith, London's 1947 Queen of Queens, prepare to leave London for South Africa to serve as judges in a beauty contest.



**GARY COOPERS GO SKIING**—Actor Gary Cooper (left), Mrs. Cooper (right), and daughter Maria pose with ski instructor Ford Iselin at Aspen, Colorado.



**ROOSEVELT BABY BAPTISED**—Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, month-old daughter of James and Romelie Schneider Roosevelt, appears none too happy after her christening at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Beverly Hills, California.

## VIGNETTES OF LIFE

"Sneak Attacks"  
By KEMP STARRETT



"MY DEAR, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! ISN'T IT WONDERFUL WHAT THEY CAN DO WITH RABBIT THESE DAYS."

THE SNEAK ATTACKS THE GIRLS MAKE ON EACH OTHER... AND WITH SUCH DICARMING SMILES, TOO... WOULD MAKE A MAN TO ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE.



THAT SNEAK RAID ON THE FANCY FOOD YOU FIXED FOR TOMORROW CLUB MEETING.

RAKES STILL HAVE A NASTY HABIT OF SNEAKING UP ON YOU... WHEN YOU'RE NOT LOOKING.



SCIENTIFIC TESTS PROVE... USED BY ALL THE STARS... LIKE A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION... GET THE LARGE ECONOMY SIZE... TWICE AS MUCH... HAGGING BACK-ACHE... HEADACHES DING-WORM... HERBROWN NAILS... ALL PURPOSE REMEDY.

WITH THE BUILT-IN AROMA!

GET ALL SET FOR A QUIET SOOTHING MUSICAL PROGRAM... AS ANNOUNCED... AND LOOK WHAT SNEAKS IN ON YOU!



"AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IT DOES TO ME?"

ONE OF THOSE DELAYED-ACTION SNEAK "ATTACKS" WHICH FINALLY BUST ALL OVER ONE LIKE BUBBLE-GUM.



TALK ABOUT THE PRICE OF BUTTER: WAIT UNTIL POP DISCOVERS WHAT THIS BUTTERING-UP JOB IS GOING TO COST HIM.

Ledger Syndicate



"HEY! WHERE'S ALL MY STUFF... ALL MY PAPERS? WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME BEFORE YOU USE EVERYTHING ALL UP CLEAN!"

THOSE ATTACKS ON HIS DESK AREAS POPULAR AS A SKUNK AT A GARDEN PARTY.

STARRETT

*The newest Lipstick!*



You'll love the exquisite smoothness of Solitair Lipstick, its ease of application—the unbelievable way its colour stays on.

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Priscilla knows a lovely skin is a "must." And like so many engaged girls, her beauty care is Ponds' Cold Cream.

Every morning, every night, give yourself Pond's beauty care. See why engaged girls like Priscilla and society beauties like Mrs. A. J. Drexel, III use Pond's.

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43 French Bank Building, Hong Kong, China

A LIQUID AIR REFRESHER

REFRESHES THE AIR WITH A PLEASANT FAINT LEMON-LIKE AROMA

FOR USE IN WALL CONTAINERS LASTS APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH



Used Wherever air is contaminated, stale, musty, odorous.

Effective for refreshing air in lavatories, also in kitchens, bar rooms, restaurants, meeting halls, dance halls.

For use in any place air is contaminated by organic matter or by crowds of people.

SOLE AGENTS: UNITED AGENCIES LIMITED SHELL HOUSE HONGKONG TEL. 51175

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HONGKONG'S GREAT DEPARTMENT STORE

## SPECIAL OFFER

MEN'S WATER REPELLENT FABRIC RAINCOATS  
U.S. mako, Line or Unlined, Grey and Lt. Brown. Sizes 36-42 . . . . . \$65. EACH

MEN'S LEATHER SHOES  
Brown and Black. Different sizes . . . . . \$14. PAIR.

ELECTRIC TOASTERS, U.S. Mako . . . . . \$28. EACH

ELECTRIC TABLE LAMPS  
Assorted fancy designs . . . . . \$15. EACH

CRYSTAL 7 PIECE WATER SETS  
1 Ice Pitcher, 6 Tumblers . . . . . \$12.50 SET

O'BRIEN'S NUTTI BRISTLE CANDIES . . . . . \$2.40 TIN

COOPER'S SOCKS, Rayon, Mercerized Cotton  
Different colours. Sizes 9½-11 . . . . . \$2.50 PAIR

FANCY CARPETS 9 ft. x 12 ft.  
Belgium make . . . . . \$350. EACH

Subject to Stock Available

SEE OUR WINDOW DISPLAY

EVERY SATURDAY

## EASTER BONNETS



Alvin Colby, San Mateo, Calif., hardware store employee, shows Rosemary Idle (left) some Easter bonnets he has made from material in the store. Miss Idle wears a hat made from fine mesh wire, a glass bowl, glass drawer pulls and a clothes brush. The hats he holds are made from baskets, pan cleaners, plastic straws and brushes. (APWIREPHOTO)

## Put a flower in your hat for spring . . .

by CAROLINE FOX

BEGUILING little straw bonnets are coming for the spring. They perch lightly on the head, are festooned with flowers and birds, and under the chin with bows of tulle or velvet streamers.

With them will be worn dresses and suits with rounded shoulders, diminutive waists, emphasized hips, and longer than ever skirts.

Quite the prettiest skirt I saw at Adele's spring show looked like a half-open parachute with its gored billowing.

Alas, it is only likely to land over seas.

But the new fullness is produced in other ways, notably by original use of pleating . . . .

narrow pleats stitched down to the knee, then allowed to splay . . . unpressed pleats like fluted gores that only start from the scalloped edge of a very long bodice . . . groups of narrow pleats that are inset in the skirt side, like godets . . . narrow flat pleats at the back of the skirt only, its front quite plain . . . little, knife-edged pleats that reach from the waist to about 12 inches above the hem, and are then pressed out leaving a pretty hem fulness.

### Clever design

ROUNDED shoulders—which make the old familiar square shoulder look like a guardsman on parade—were very cleverly designed, often being cut in one with a curved or scalloped edge.

And details was enlivening . . .

fastenings like dainty silver puzzles on a grey flannel

Hair styles will have to be altered to accompany these hats, and curls in the back will have to be shorter and the swept-up hair style will come back, also fringes.

Hats will have big bows, large wide quills, and lots of veils and flowers—not the usual flowers.

The flowers are of the same materials as the hats, often flowered prints, silks and mouselines or the "Pompadour" type. There will be lots of pastel shades for hats and a few plaid silks.

A new nylon nail varnish has appeared in Paris. It is supposed to be unusually durable.

It's easy to use—just smooth on at night before retiring and let it work while you sleep. After using just one regular sized jar you will find your complexion so improved that you will need no urging to continue using Stillman's Freckle Cream.

### STILLMAN'S Freckle Cream

FOR CLEAR SKIN

Stillman's Freckle Cream contains certain ingredients which act as a temporary "black-out" against the formation of pigment. Next it favors the retention of fat globules in the skin which helps to smooth out lines and creases.

It's easy to use—just smooth on at night before retiring and let it work while you sleep. After using just one regular sized jar you will find your complexion so improved that you will need no urging to continue using Stillman's Freckle Cream.

## WOMANSENSE

FULL-PAGE FEATURE

### "HUSBANDS MAKE THEM SPARTANS"—Emily Hahn

Former Hongkong Novelist says the English wife works too hard

WITH her labour-saving way they can. Men almost never wear coupon-saving clothes, her pay for women in England. But are girls paid as much as men? Standing in queues, the "No," I said. "That way, it's just standing in queues, the "No," I said. "That way, it's just when I first came back to England in 1946."

She looked overworked and dull, with the bore of fatigue—a bore which is even deadlier than that of too much leisure. Today she looks better to my eye. I think the British Housewife is among factory workers, smartening up, though I don't know quite how she does it. I suppose that wives! They never help them out after seven years of this and that of ours, and they expect them to keep crisis, even the greatest bulk of work up when they walk fast—in, it's volume.

An opinionated American, I have his wife exactly as if she were another man!

THAT was 20 years ago, remember. Since then, women in the States have learned to take a little interest in politics and international relations. Since then there are fewer women per man in the United Kingdom, and fewer men per woman in the United States.

But still, looking around me in the queue these days, I sometimes think that English women find life a little harder than necessary, because they bear a double burden. Not only are they called on to be women, which in these days means to work.

"No, why do they do it?" "Well, they want to go to the movies, you see, and that's the only 24, but they must be men as well."

Glamour gowns



It's Chinese coolie in style but the material—cotton—comes from West Africa.

Colour scheme is off-white on chocolate brown.

In the new "halcyon blue," Etches collection.

### First Philippine Lady Cabinet Member Works For Social Welfare

NEW YORK. WHEN a woman enters public life—especially a pretty Filipina—things begin happening pretty fast.

So when the first woman to be admitted to the Philippine cabinet, Senora Asuncion Perez, returned to Manila in May, she'll be brimming with ideas on social improvement.

Senora Perez, Commissioner of Social Welfare, has been studying social trends and practices in the United States with an eye to incorporating some in Philippine life.

A longtime friend of the underprivileged for whom her charitable work has won her repeated recognition in the Philippines, Senora Perez is in a sense on a twofold mission. Along with visiting various government and social agencies for ideas, she is also addressing women's and other clubs on social and economic problems in the Philippines.

She recently outlined to a luncheon group of the United Council of Church Women a few of the things she had seen during her tour. While her duties also include serving as delegate to the United Nations she has spent considerable time at the Federal Security Agency and Department of Agriculture.

"Of course the United States is so much greater than the Philippines," she said, "it would be impossible for the Philippines to adopt anything with as wide a scope. However there are three social ideas that have greatly impressed me and I would urge:

1. A general overall relief programme
2. Aid to dependent children
3. Widower pensions."

Another feature of American communal life—which impressed her was the Community Chest programme. This is a system of nationwide, non-sectarian civic aid for the underprivileged in which several religious and social welfare groups participate.

As for agriculture, Senora Perez said she would propose that the Philippines undertake a Farm Loan Programme whereby her country's agricultural resources will be more fully developed.

And in this respect, she says, "I am a great believer in education. Therefore I hope we too will be able to institute something like the American farm education extension programme. With a plan like that the most modern farming methods could be laid before the very people that work on farms. This would

### COUPONS-FOR-DOLLARS PLAN TO SELL CLOTHING

DETAILS of a scheme by which "hard currency" visitors from U.S.A., Canada and Argentina may buy special clothing coupons here to make purchases direct from shops are being considered by the Board of Trade. An announcement will be made in Parliament soon.

It is proposed that booklets of six vouchers should be sold at banks at £100. (£25) each against dollar bills or travellers' cheques.

If the scheme is approved the first booklets will be ready in time for overseas buyers to the British Industries Fair, which opens on May 3.

#### 'No limit'

There would be no limit to the number of vouchers which visitors from the U.S., Canada and Argentina could buy.

Savile-row suits, one of our most popular export "lines," would become available to dollar visitors to the Olympia Games is to be announced soon.

### Princess' Necklace Starts Vogue

THE red and yellow gold net brooch, with floral design set with diamonds and rubies, which Princess Elizabeth chose as a wedding present from the jewellers, has started a vogue for similar alligare sprays in gold, silver, platinum and palladium.

At the Goldsmiths' Hall, 470 designs have been entered for the national competition for new jewellery and silverware to be made for the British Industries Fair.

New trends rely on craftsmanship and detailed design. Gone is the large chunky costume piece.

Most elegant designs are for the composite jewellery sets with diamonds in beautiful and intricate platinum settings. Some ensembles consist of tiaras, breaking up into necklace, bracelet, brooch and earclips; others are beautiful necklaces composed of lapel brooch, two sets of dress clips, ear-clips and bracelet. Cost will be roughly £6,000 a set.

Other new composite pieces include double brooches (one worn on each lapel), linked with diamond chain, which separates as a bracelet.

Costume jewellery designs feature many sea motifs—starfish, dol-

phins, mermaids and strange kinds of fish.

Lapel brooches will be more popular and prominent. Very attractive are the double-brooch ornament with a linking chain, such as a jewelled bird chained to a glittering tree, or a sailing ship attached to a diamond anchor.

Rings tend to be larger and more important in design—clusters of many stones, rather than single stones.

Hand ornaments are becoming more fashionable. Companion bracelets are linked with decorative chains. One design shows a delicate

chain and a diamond ring attached.

Winning designs will be exhibited at the BIF exhibition for export buyers. Jewellery at the fair will be worth over £1,000,000.

Best market for Britain's fine jewellery at present is South Africa, but scarcity of gold and a world shortage of good stones is hampering the trade.

Eileen Ascrott

# WEEK'S SOCIAL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



A DANCE in honour of their President, the Hon. Arthur Morse, CBE, who left on furlough by the President Cleveland, was given by the Victoria Recreation Club last week. Picture above shows Mr Morse (fourth from left, seated) with a group of members and their ladies. Right: dancing in progress in the gymnasium. (Photos: King's Studio)



MR WILLIAM MARTIN SIMMONS, manager of the National City Bank, and Mrs Mona Jordon, who were married at the Registry last Saturday, photographed with friends after the ceremony. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



BAO DAI, Ex-Emporor of Annam, Inspecting an electrical machinery factory at Genova during his recent tour of Europe. The Ex-Emporor returned to Hongkong on Sunday.



THE dance held by the Hongkong University Alumni Association at the Hongkong Hotel last week was very well attended. Two parties are pictured here. Top: Dr S. H. Wong, Mrs I. Finch, Mr H. L. Fung, Mrs Wong, Mr V. L. Wright and Mrs Fung. Below: Dr G. Choa, Miss M. Kotowall, Mr S. Ma, Mr L. Choa, Miss I. Carvalho, Miss R. Rull and Mr J. Lim. (Photos: Francis Wu)



CAMBRIDGE men in Hongkong beat Oxford by two wickets in a friendly cricket match played last Sunday. Photo shows the two teams. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



DELEGATES from the Hongkong Chinese Manufacturers' Union to the British Industries Fair are (from left) Messrs Lo Hsiang-hoi, Robert Dor, Shum Choy-wah, Ip Ping-chun, U Tat-choo and Wong Hong-ching. They left by the President Cleveland last Saturday.



MR G. ARNOLD and his bride, formerly Miss Mary Ribeiro, who were married at Rosary Church last Sunday. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



CHINA won the Governor's Cup at Caroline Hill last week-end. Here HE the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, presents the Cup to Hsu King-shing, China's captain. (Photo: Golden Studio)

TO WIND UP the season, Hongkong Football Club held a successful dinner dance at the Hongkong Hotel last week. Above: Major-Gen. G. W. E. J. Erskine and Club officials honouring a toast. Below left: dancers snapped during the evening. (Photos: Francis Wu and Golden Studio)



MISS Azalea Reynolds, whose Oriental dance was one of the features of the Rotary Club ball last Monday, organised to raise funds for trachoma clinics. (Photo: Moo Cheung)



INNISKILLINGS ruggerites who won the seven-a-side shield competition at Happy Valley last Saturday. (Photo: Golden Studio)



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# THE SIGNALS HAVE DONE A GRAND JOB

By Capt. D.J. Morgan

**H**OW many people ever give a thought to the vast reconstruction job that has taken place in the telephone systems on Hongkong in the last two years when they pick up a telephone nowadays? Not very many people, I imagine, except perhaps the Hongkong Telephone Company engineers and linemen, and the officers and men of the Royal Corps of Signals, who looked after the Army side of the business and rebuilt the Forces' telephone network throughout Hongkong.

A couple of days after the fleet arrived in Hongkong to take the surrender of the Japs, General Headquarters flew a Colonel of the Royal Signals into the Colony to get communications working for the British Garrison that would follow in. It did not take Colonel Gordon long to find that telecommunications were in a sorry state—in fact, they were virtually non-existent. The 113 miles of underground and submarine cables that served the Garrison before the war had either fallen into decay through lack of maintenance, or else this time.

## DEAD DUCK

LEFT as they were, with a dead duck of a telephone system or, their hands, the Army had to do something—and quickly—to tie the British Military Administration over the interim until something substantial was constructed again. A Naval Line Section of the Royal Signals—a section which works with the Royal Navy, fixing up their shore communications when they come into port—solved the problem by putting up a two-hundred-line field exchange of the type used at battle headquarters, and running lines out to all essential subscribers.

Meanwhile, sections of British and Indian Signals were brought in from the Burma Army to tackle the big job. With a company headquarters also flown in from Burma, and a Royal Marine Signal Company under command, they were ready to start. They were called the Hongkong Signal Company, which has since become known as the Hongkong Signal Squadron.

Their first task was, naturally, to locate what there was left of the old cable, so that they could economise in material and labour for the reconstruction of the lines. Here they were more fortunate than they had hoped. A former civilian employee of the Signals, Wan Tam Gal, an old hand who had been with Hongkong Signals for twenty years, came up to the first Signals officer that he saw, told him who he was, and offered his services to get hold of as many of the old civilian employees as he could, and help to locate the lines.

## OLD HANDS HELP

AT that time—January 1946—the Signals were fortunate enough to have men with years of experience at the kind of job which they were going to tackle. Most of the old hands who had been doing the job for ten or fifteen years were still serving, and they knew too many tricks of their trade—to-fore—any sleep over it. After Burma they were probably glad to have a quiet, steady job for a while.

Later in the year up in the China Command building, they built a five-hundred-line exchange, and then the Royal Engineers renovated the exchange building around it—earlier horse, but that is the way it was actually done. A typhoon blew quite a bit of it away when it was half done, too!

Digging and line parties tested old lines and dug new ones in until the 113 miles of multi-core cable again stretched from the Headquarters out to Stanley, Lyman, Stonecutters Island, Whitfield Barracks, San Wan and half a dozen other places where subsidiary exchanges were put up to take some of the weight off the main. Cables carrying perhaps five hundred pairs of wires as they came out of the exchange were broken down until every pair of wires ended up in the right telephone. And in the exchange itself, the thousands of lines had to be joined on to the right contacts and given the right numbers. That sort of thing probably leads to the popular belief that it helps to be mad if you are a signaller—and if you are not mad to start with, you soon will be.

It was in the process of digging new lines in that they burst a water main and nearly washed the Wan-chai district out to sea.

## THEY SAY IT'S EASY

OUT at Lyman and Stanley, they set up mammoth receivers and transmitters which maintained communication by radio telephone to General Headquarters at Singapore. Two sets as wide apart as that enables a person sitting at a desk in Hongkong to speak to someone sitting at a desk in Singapore, where the sending and receiving sets are presumably just apart, is still a mystery to me—and so it will remain, though the Signals say its just too easy.

Nowadays, the Hongkong Signal Squadron handles all Army, and a lot of RAF traffic, to the rest of the world, and diplomatic traffic to Nanking, with teleprinters that encode and decode messages, as they come or go.

It is fortunate that the Squadron has been able to put the telecommunications back on the old footing or better, because by this time, they're in common with most other branches of the Army are suffering from acute manpower shortage, and more acutely from a shortage of really

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



## SEFTON DELMER'S NEWSMAP

No, it's  
hardly  
like Munich!

Franco gives  
a point to  
please U.S.

**E**XPERTS of the American State Department are inclined to take the Communist coup in Prague pretty calmly. In their view it does not fundamentally alter the European balance of power. I agree with them.

Memory of the events of 1938 and 1939 is prompting politicians everywhere to attach a greater strategic significance to the changes than they really possess.

In my view the analogy between 1938 and 1948 is only superficial.

In 1938 Munich put the Germans in control of a country which had until then been aligned against them. But the Czechoslovakia of 1948 has been a Soviet satellite ever since the Russians drove the Germans out of there in 1945.

What happened now was that (1) a Cabinet in which Communists had most of the say was replaced by one in which Communists have all the say; (2) the chance that existed until then of a Communist setback in the coming elections was eliminated; (3) the rule of law which had been reintroduced in Czechoslovakia since May 1, 1947, was abolished in favour of terrorism by Communist action squads.

**P**OLICE rule

THOSE events are of drastic significance for the Czechs and Slovaks, who from now on are exposed once more to arbitrary police rule.

## BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

**T**HE startling ideas of Dr Strabismus (Whom God Preserves) of Utrecht are having their effect on American science. The other day Professor C. V. R. Thompson wrote of "a siren that makes so much noise that it generates sufficient heat to kill a mouse in a minute." This must be a near relation of the Doctor's battery, which generates so much heat that it makes a noise loud enough to kill a fly a mile away.

This is certainly sending a whale to catch a sprat, and the whole elaborate business might be avoided by simply controlling a flying mouse-trap by radio. When within striking distance of a mouse, the trap would make enough noise to generate enough heat to release a blob of electric cheese. When touched by the mouse, the cheese would ring a little bell to summon the nearest cat.

## Rehearsal

**M**R COLIN VELVETTE led the three Persians to a corner of the Stage, where a rehearsal was in progress. The hairy man in the hairy suit was shouting weakly. A shivering girl was standing on her toes with one hand in the air and

## Games

(For children)

WHILE the conversation is at its height slip under the table and carefully tie everybody's shoe- or boot-strings to those of his or her neighbour. Return to your seat and wait until they all get up at the end of the meal.

**B**OOTH Generalissimo Franco and the Americans have made important modifications of policy which bring ostracised totalitarian Spain closer to Marshall aid and the Western camp.

The U.S. has made a bargain with Franco, Spain will (1) surrender the stocks of German gold now in Spain to the common pool; (2) conclude a satisfactory agreement concerning the treatment of German assets in Spain. In return the U.S. will (1) unfreeze Spain's dollar assets in the U.S.; (2) give permission to U.S. capitalists to make substantial loans to Spain.

American capitalists are already visiting Spain discussing loans for Spanish industries worth approximately 50,000,000 dollars.

These private enterprisers have obtained from Franco a concession of considerable significance. The Spanish authorities have promised that American money loaned to Spanish enterprises shall be used only for the purposes designated, that neither the State-controlled trade union syndicates nor the State Institute of Commerce and Industry shall have any say in how the money is applied or spent.

In other words Franco has agreed to modify his authoritarian economy, with its insistence on State control in industry, to meet the demands of American capital. It is an important first step which may be followed by other similar modifications—economic and political—making Spain a more attractive proposition than it is at present.

## FUGITIVE

**A**N S.S. leader on the run is Count Basselitz-Bohr. During the war he was Hitler's police chief in the Ukraine. Now he is wanted by the Russians as a war criminal.

On September 10 last year he was extradited by the British to the Russians. Shortly after that British Intelligence men got word of the clandestine S.S. organisation meant to free him. But they did not pass on the news to the Russians. They did not believe the S.S. could do it.

Last month American police plucked up Basselitz-Bohr in Bremen. His S.S. friends had succeeded in springing him from the Russian prison. And before the Americans could hand him back to the Russians he had escaped again. He is on the loose now.

## CORPSE

**U**NRA may live longer as a live body. Officially Unra died after a life of little over two years, in June, 1947.

But I find its corpse still demanding a lot of attention. It occupies four buildings in the West End of London, and the ground floor of a fifth. It employs a major-general and a staff of 437. In Europe Unra still has six so-called "receptor" stations distributing the last of its bounty—in Hamburg, Belgrade, Prague, Trieste, Rome and Athens.

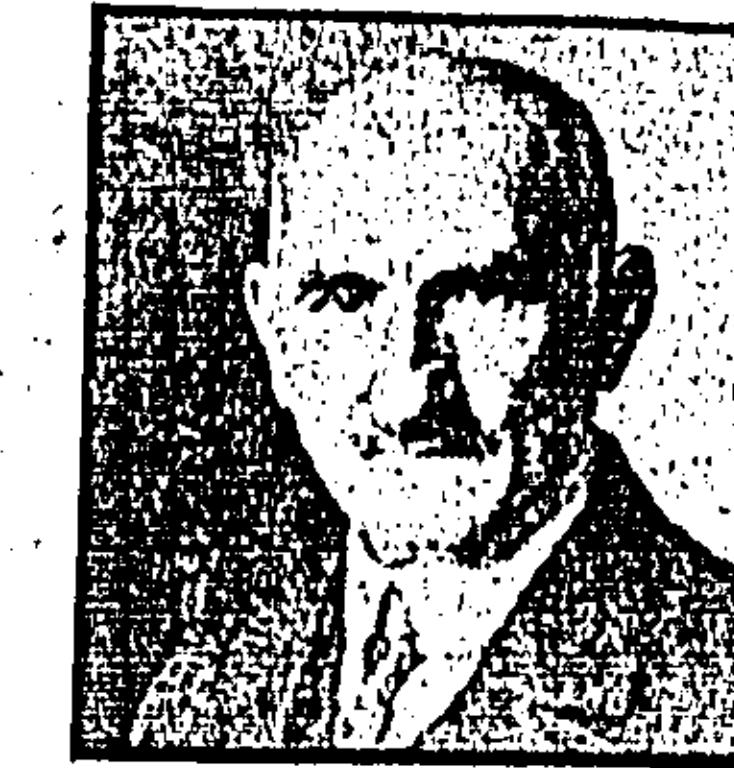
Official forecast is that "winding up" of Unra will keep the boys and girls busy until the late autumn—perhaps even until the end of the year. And then what is left will move to the U.S. for the writing of Unra's history and the final agony.

Which means at least two years and a bit of life after death for Unra. And maybe a good bit after that.

# Who did the murder for which Oscar Slater served 18 years?

A man lets out the secret

by BRENDAN KEMMET



Oscar Slater

W—, he said, kept watch. W went with him home to the house. He rang the bell. Miss Gilchrist, thinking it was her maid Helen Lambie (witness at the Slater trial) coming back, opened the door, and then returned to her dining-room.

J—struck at Miss Gilchrist, but did not knock her out as he expected. So he followed her, striking again and again with his Jimmy, until she collapsed.

By this time the people underneath had become alarmed, and were making for Miss Gilchrist's. J—had no time to hunt for money or jewellery. He may have snatched a piece or two hurriedly before he was disturbed, but to the best of my knowledge the two men gained nothing by the murder.

Now at the time of the trial a Miss Agnes Brown, a school-teacher, told the police that two men rushed past her in West Princes-street. One, she said, had his arm pressed close to his side.

That was J—, supporting the Jimmy under his jacket.

Miss Brown, confronted by Slater at the identification parade, did not pick him. She knew that neither of the men who passed her that night was there.

She was not called as a witness at the trial.

## Slater's outburst

The Jimmy was thrown into the River Kelvin, J—, who lived in Partick, went home by subway.

From the day of that meeting with W— I have never seen any of the old gang. If W— is alive today he is over 80.

But Oscar Slater I did see, again and again. We became good friends in Peterhead. We never discussed the murder, for I was terrified to tell of what I knew.

I used to wonder what he would do if he was caught again. He had constant companion in suffering, held the secret, and was indirectly the cause of all his misery.

Slater felt, sometimes justifiably, that the guards "picked" on him.

Early in his sentence, when he spoke but broke English, I have seen him, with his gigantic strength, rush to the platform on which the guards stood, shake it till it trembled, and cry in a voice full of suffering: "Schlader-Schlader—why is it always Schlader?"

The outcry over the murder made the police of that day desperate to secure a conviction.

It was with relief that they pounced on a "tip" which was, according to underworld rumour, sent about Slater by a fellow gambler.

## Judge convinced

I firmly believe that the only person who was thoroughly convinced of Slater's guilt was the judge who sentenced him. And he was misled by the police, who called only a few hand-picked witnesses.

Witnesses who really did matter were never called to give evidence.

The verdict hinged on identity. Five witnesses said the man they saw fleeing from the scene of the crime was clean-shaven. Slater had a moustache.

In spite of that, Slater was convicted and sentenced.

The Glasgow police, to whom the facts related here have been submitted, say there is no question whatever of the case being reopened.

## The SNAPSHOT GUILD

HOW FAST IS FAST?



No need for fast shutter speeds here. Panoramic "stopped" this racer.

ASK any good photographer.

He'll tell you that all the gadgets in the world won't help the man who isn't able to take a good, sharp, brilliant picture with a simple box camera.

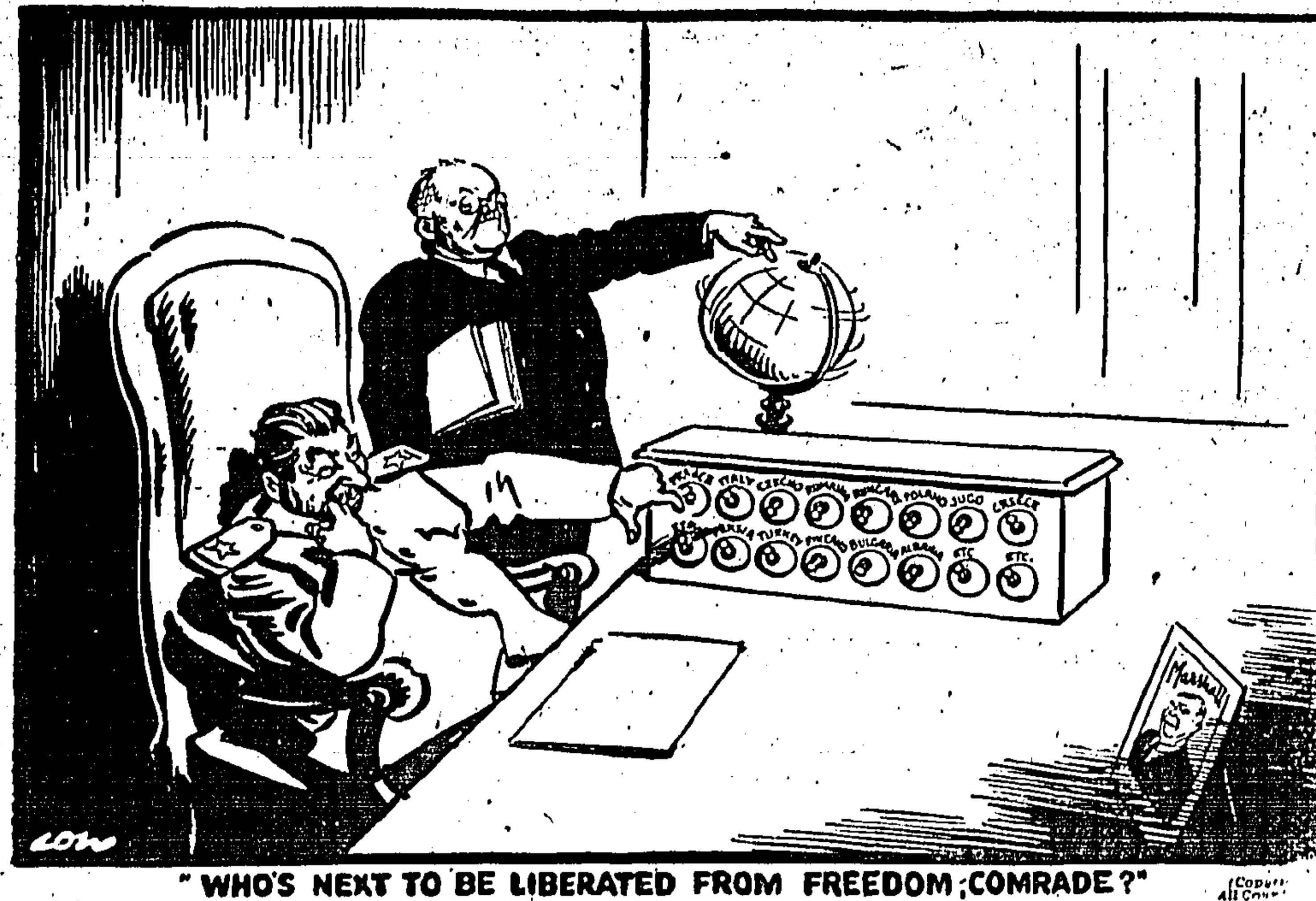
Chances are he'll tell you, too, that your Brownie can do a good bit more than you realise.

For example, it's considered panoramic slow. "Panning" is a trick, following the action with your camera and stopping the shutter as you follow it. The trick is to glue your eye to the viewfinder, spot your subject as it approaches, press your hand and shoulders against it to keep the subject centred in the finder, and click the shutter without interrupting your pivot.

The result, like the picture above, will show a streaked background from the movement. But because you were moving the camera at a rate which was constant in relation to the subject speed, the subject will be "stopped." And those streaks in the blurred background add to the sense of speed.

You say 1/1000-1/4000? Wrong. For today's picture was made with

John van Guilder



"WHO'S NEXT TO BE LIBERATED FROM FREEDOM, COMRADE?"

## THIS POOR LITTLE RICH COUNTRY

IRAN is the world's poor little rich country. During a two-week plane, train and taxi tour from the Persian Gulf, in the south, to the Russian border, I found the people gracious and hospitable, with a rich heritage, potential prosperity, and yet living in mediæval poverty.

Iran's wealth is largely in its oil supplies. Geologists estimate that its mountainous desert terrain are the second biggest pools in the world. But a mere seven tenths of one percent have now been tapped.

There is nothing potential, however, about Iran's poverty. It is real, it is acute and it is widespread.

Shoes are unavailable to the majority of the people, and clothes are patched until the patches patching the patches wear out. Life is lived under the most primitive conditions both in the rural and urban areas. Not one large city has a completely closed sewerage system, and even in Teheran, the capital, open gutters dispose of most of the capital's waste.

Charcoal furnishes what heat the people get during the severe winters, and even an early vintage motor car is a generally unknown luxury.

Agriculture, upon which eight out of ten Iranians depend for their existence, is still in the oxen and bullock-plough era. A few of the cities have electricity, telephones, taxis and some paved streets, but you would probably have a tough search finding a thousand steel ploughs amongst the 16,000,000 population. There is only one tractor during the entire trip.

### Haves And Have-Nots

IRAN is divided into the haves and the have-nots; there is practically no middle class. Unfortunately many of the haves are government officials whose Bullets and gardenied homes came out of public funds, for politics—if you are "successful"—is a most prosperous career, and graft and corruption are acknowledged facts.

Practically every Iranian transaction, from letting a traffic fine to letting of contracts, is oiled with butter. The government has promised a general house-cleaning and "elimination" of corruption by making graft impossible within six months.

Heaviest—millstones around—the country's neck is its illiteracy, which exceeds 95 percent. The education system, like most other cultural activities, is in the dark ages. Schools are orchid rare, and the teachers exist on starvation wages.

Iran made its greatest advance during the benevolent dictatorship of Reza Shah Pahlevi, whose 20-year reign picked the country up by its bootstraps, and, by vigorous and well-almed kicks in the seats of their ragged pants, forced the populace out of its lethargic state. He introduced western civilisation and 20th century methods which accomplished near miracles. Since the Shah's forced exile in 1941, Iran has lost much of its gains and failed to continue its climb upward.

### Problem Child

IRAN is the country's number one problem child. The Iranians lack the confidence to attempt development themselves, yet they fear foreign exploitation. The only nation interested in the northern areas is Russia. The British are contented with their holdings in southern and western Iran, and American capital will never risk an investment so close to the hem of the Iron curtain.

Russia is Iran's public enemy number one. Whether fenced or real, most Iranians live in fear of a Red Army invasion, and what little energy the country possesses is absorbed in the cat and mouse game of keeping it free from Soviet domination. Government officials maintain that Russia is determined to include their country in the USSR as the Soviets want an outlet to the Persian Gulf plus the oil and mineral resources.



**A two-week plane, train and taxi tour through Iran—from the Persian Gulf to the Russian border—with Robert C. Miller, United Press Staff Correspondent**

Many of the Iranians in the north, however, have lost much of their fear of the Russians after having lived under the Red-sponsored "democratic" regime for a year. From December 1945 to December 1946, the Soviets attempted to set up an "independent" state in Azerbaijan province. There was admitted ruthlessness liquidation of any opposition to the Democrats, but the average Azerbaijani discovered that the new government was an efficient, aggressive organisation which carried out reforms that had been long promised but undelivered by the Iranian government.

### Only Promises

LIVING standards were raised among the masses, and even the most vehement anti-Communists agreed that Pishvairi's Democrats accomplished more in a year than the Iranian government had done—for Azerbaijan in 20.

Today the border provinces is safely back in the government control, and the area is being purged of pro-Communist elements. Police and military forces are maintaining "peace and quiet" in the area, and the situation is completely under control.

The old inefficiency of the government has returned too. Teheran is again promising the Azerbaijanians better roads, more schools, improved living conditions and new social reforms. So far they have only been promises, and the people are beginning to wonder.

One look at Abadan, with its orderly rows of storage tanks, its forest of smoking chimneys and huge gaso-line cracking units sprouting out of the desert, and it is easy to understand why "naff" oil is the most important word in the Persian language.

On this island adjoining the Persian Gulf is Britain's biggest stake in Middle East—the gigantic Anglo-Iranian refinery, 52½ percent owned by the British Government—whose oil lubricates the Empire's life-line.

### Biggest Headache

FROM this plant, one of the world's largest, came practically every drop of aviation gas for British and American planes in the Middle East during the war. It is also the keystone of Iran's economy, as its taxes and royalties furnish the government with from 10 to 20 percent of its total revenue, besides employing some 30,000 workers.

Abadan is also Iran's biggest headache, as the Russians, claiming that Iran must remain impartial in granting foreigners the right to exploit its oil, demand similar privileges in northern Iran along the Soviet border.

Nothing in American oil centres is more modern than the Abadan refinery, and its efficiency of operation equals or betters most of the others in the world.

### Whispered Threats

LIKE the Arabian-American oil company in Saudi Arabia, Anglo Iranian is pretty much at the mercy of the Iranian government, which is again threatening to revise the existing contract and increase the percentage of Iranian who are being employed as technicians and in skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

The present concession enjoyed by the British expires in 1953, and it gives Iran 80 cents (U.S.) a ton on all oil refined and sold plus a healthy slice of excess profits.

The company's greatest problem has been the shortage of labour, and it has developed Abadan into a model company town which offers the Persian unheard-of benefits and security if they are willing to work here, where the temperatures bubble up to around 110 and 120 during the summer. The high medical requirements rule out most of the applicants, but there is an ever increasing percentage of Iranians who are becoming employed as technicians and in skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

### On To Tabriz

THERE is tri-weekly train service

to the north, but it only goes half way

to the frontier, and besides we just

missed a train. Occasionally Iranian

Airways flies a plane north to Tabriz,

but only if the company pilot and

the crew feel so inclined. Somebody

lost their inclination along the line

and the "scheduled" flight was can-

celled after 12 unhappy passengers

still 500 miles from the border.

Four of the most courageous and

determined passengers hired a taxi

for the 400 mile juncture to Tabriz.

Out of sheer desperation, I joined

them.

The next 10 hours were spent

jammed three in the front seat of an

ancient motor car. The railway

problem confronted the expedition

again at Tabriz. Yes, there was a

train to the border town of Julfa, but

it only ran once a week. Need I

add that "It just left yesterday."

Thus bus service was problemati-

cal. There used to be a service, but

since the border activity, nobody

seemed anxious to travel north, so

it had been temporarily suspended.

A fellow American, Brock Havron

of Chattanooga, Tennessee, produced a

sunray ray of hope. He had to go to

Julfa, and said we might ride along

in his new saloon.

So in a blaze of glory and riding

cushioned seats, the United Press ar-

rived at the Russian border. It was

a sort of consolation prize, for the

Iranian army captain at the border

explained sympathetically that nothing of interest had occurred

around Julfa recently.

**"Ah Key"**

THE ghosts that haunt the river

Khordah and the patch of the Persian

Gulf Command.

American funnelled supplies to

Russia through Khoramshahr's

muddy-watered delta port, where the

summer heat even roasts the flies to

death. During the war years some

30,000 Americans, most of them

negroos, lived here and worked here.

Many of them died here, too, while

supplying the Red armies hundreds

of miles to the north.

Today Khoramshahr, with its rut-

ted, dusty roads, its boggars, its hole-

in-the-wall shops, adobe houses and

crumbling river traffic, has just about

forgotten the Americans. Some of

the diesel freighters are still churning

up the sand along Iran's "high-

ways," but, except for the trucks, worn out GI clothing that is cherished by the natives and a peculiar new

word "ah key" which has been added

to the Persian language, there's

nothing in town to indicate that it

was once run over with Americans.

Dates and oil again dominate

Khoramshahr economy.

Outside the town, the vast installa-

tions that composed the Persian Gulf

Command are warped board ghost

camps that are slowly being digested

by the weather and the desert that

has erased dozens of other preceding

civilisations.

(Continued on Page 11)

### We Hit Teheran

IRAN, which used to be Persia in the history book, is far north of the regular travel routes, and after you disembark at Sibabad, the sailor's old home town of Basra, in Iraq, you are on your own for the next thousand miles.

Getting out of Iraq requires an exit visa valid only with the scrawling of the Iraqi official appointed to sign exit visas. No signature, no

## THE MINISTER IN OUR MIDST

By "Candidus"

THE presence in Hongkong of a Minister of State for Colonial Affairs is, as far as I can gather, without precedent. It augurs well. Whether or not a high-ranking official from the Colonial Office ever sat foot in the Colony during its first seventy-five years, I cannot say, but I cannot remember a visit from the hierarchy of the Colonial Office during my quarter of a century's residence here. It is no fault of Hongkong's if, hitherto, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has always appeared as a sort of legendary figure—too narrow-minded, too disinterested, too frustrated by the red tape of British governmental procedure, to get down to exploring the fundamental requirements of Colonial administration, in the light of the peculiar and particular problems of each colony.

Those of us who have passed backwards and forwards between this "far-flung" little colony and the ruling heart of the Empire have, from time to time, received the cold douche of painful surprise to discover that Government officials, or the men in the street for that matter, seem to possess but little knowledge of Hongkong—and yet, Hongkong fills a particularly important role.

I am not speaking from the mercenary

aspect of trade, although it will be admitted that this small island has a special

significance and importance in

this respect. As a shop window

for commerce—and the com-

merce of all nations at that

its importance is obvious. At

the moment, however, I am

thinking of it as a shop window

for the display of culture, sci-

entific achievement, the fur-

therance of art, and, above all, an

example of good government,

law, order and individual free-

dom, without distinction as to

race or creed.

I got mine after a five-mile taxi

ride in a mollen 110 degree tem-

perature—so hot the trip was made

with car windows rolled up to shut

out the heat. It took the usual cum-

shaw plus considerable detective

work to find the visa signer's house.

Crossing the Shatt-al-Arab re-

quired perfect timing as the river was



**BOOK TO READ**

**Looking back, it made me shiver...**

DIPLOMATIC PRELUDE 1938-45  
by Professor L. B. Namier.  
(Macmillan, 1948.)

**OUT** today is a heart-breaking portrait of one slice of our lives. It is that slice we never see at the time though its importance is supreme.

Ten years ago, the period this documentary covers, many breadwinners who are now so discreet about the D.F.C. after their names were still in short pants. These pages tell how their destinies, and ours, were shaped by men mostly now dead. And how many of these names are discredited, how few honoured!

How intricate were the patterns of politeness over the doomed map of Europe! Hitler screamed behind the scenes. Mussolini bluffed on the telephone. Statesmen quaked. The cipher-clerks worked all night. The mysterious Swede Dahlberg began his fantastic unofficial missions.

Churchill was growling away in private life, biding his time. On the surface, the historic tragedy went forward, in measured, formal phraseology.

★ ★ ★

Namier weaves together the surface and the underneath. He uses all these coloured books, the Bluebooks of Britain, the Yellow-book of France, the White-book of Poland.

To these official records he has added much first-hand material obtained when London was the centre for Governments in exile. The Ciano diary, captured enemy documents, and a sitting of the massive evidence at the Nuremberg trials provide a background from the other side.

The sheer bulk of all this sounds formidable, but Namier has reduced it to a coherent narrative. The skittering momentum of world events tropes is shown here reflected by casual conversations, telephone calls, private cables, diplomatic despatches, and last of all by the communiques which you and I read with a shiver over those fabulous pre-war breakfast tables.

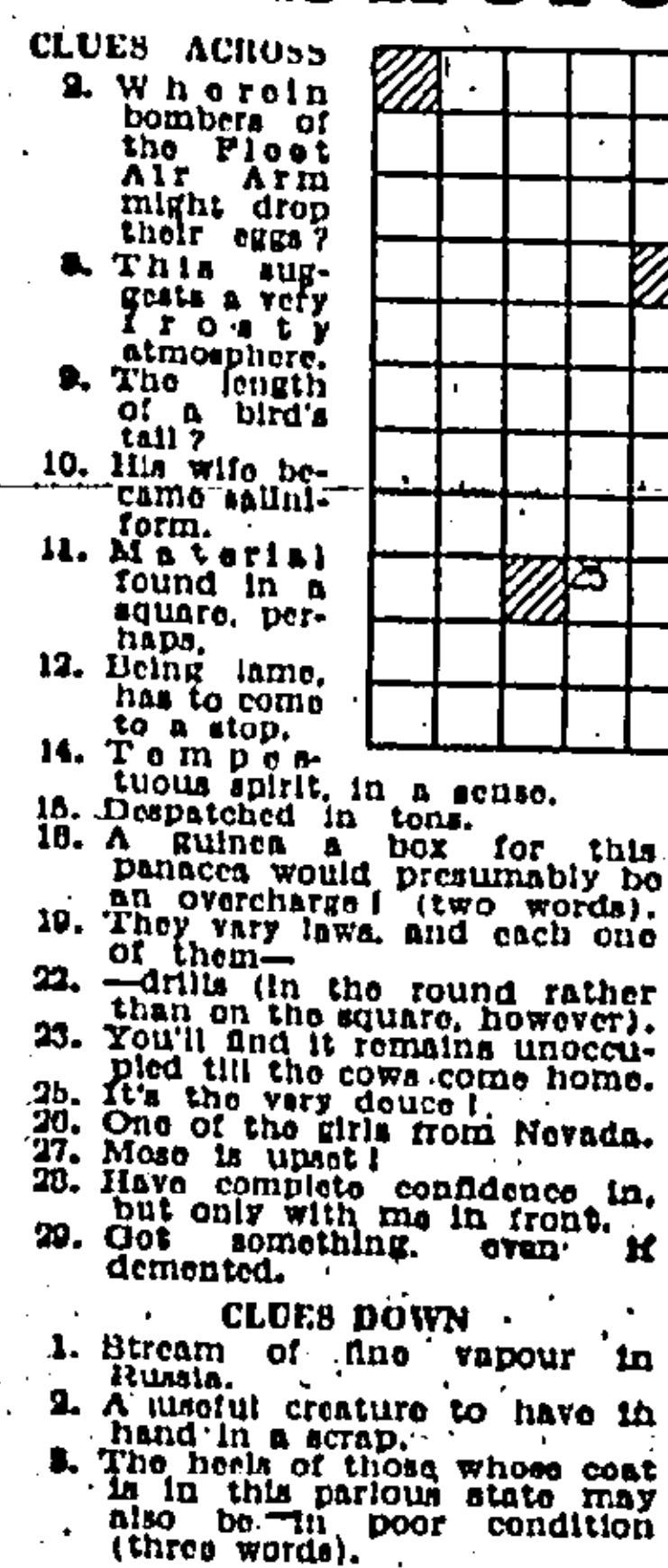
★ ★ ★

The old shivers return—for other reasons—now as I read this adroit reconstruction of near-distant history. The paraphernalia of words look so tragically stupid. Again and again common sense is left gasping.

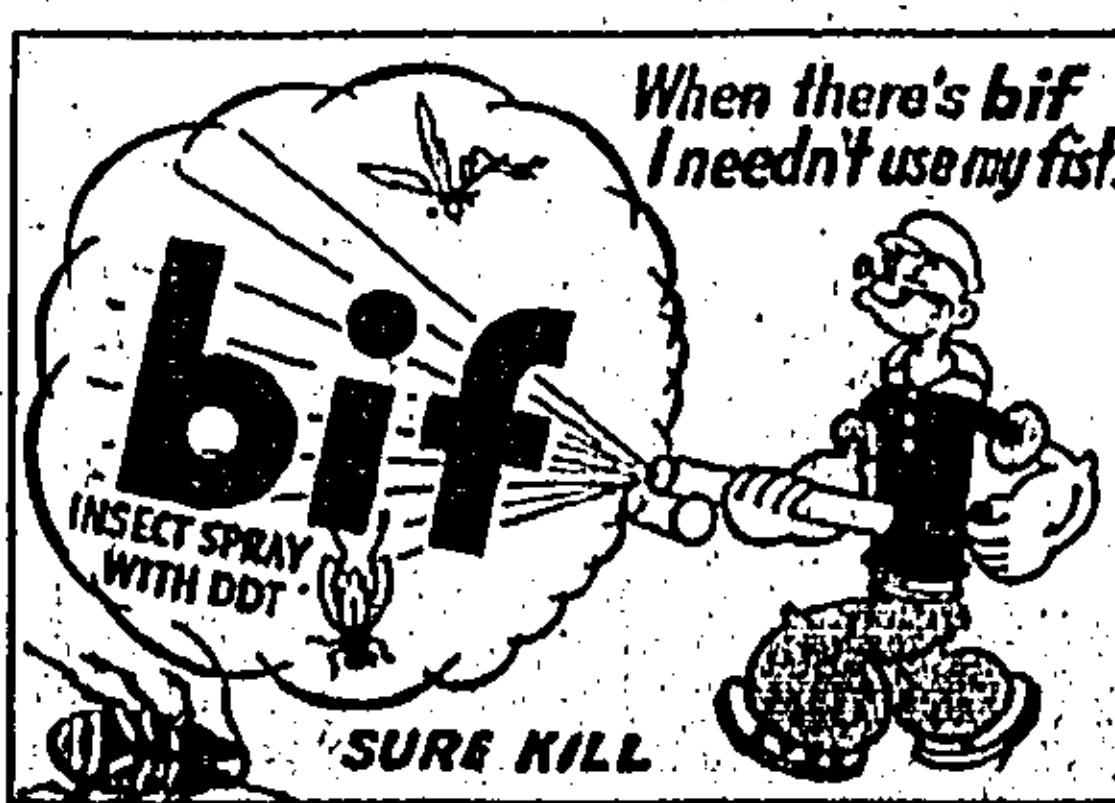
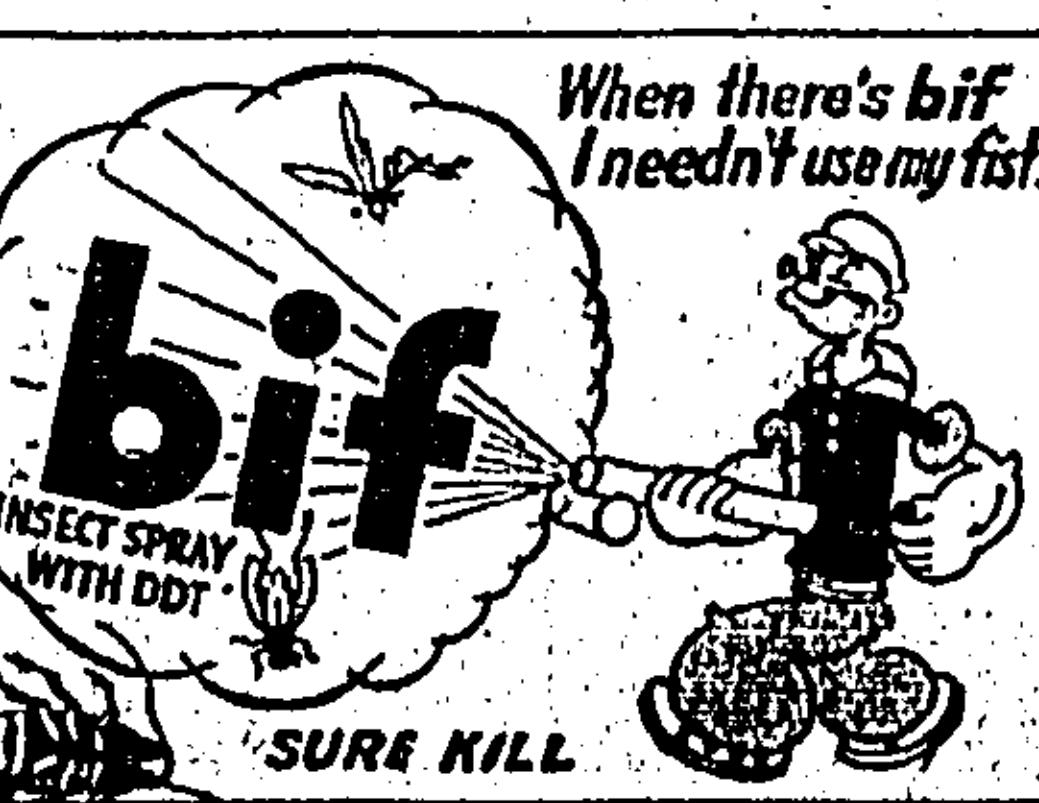
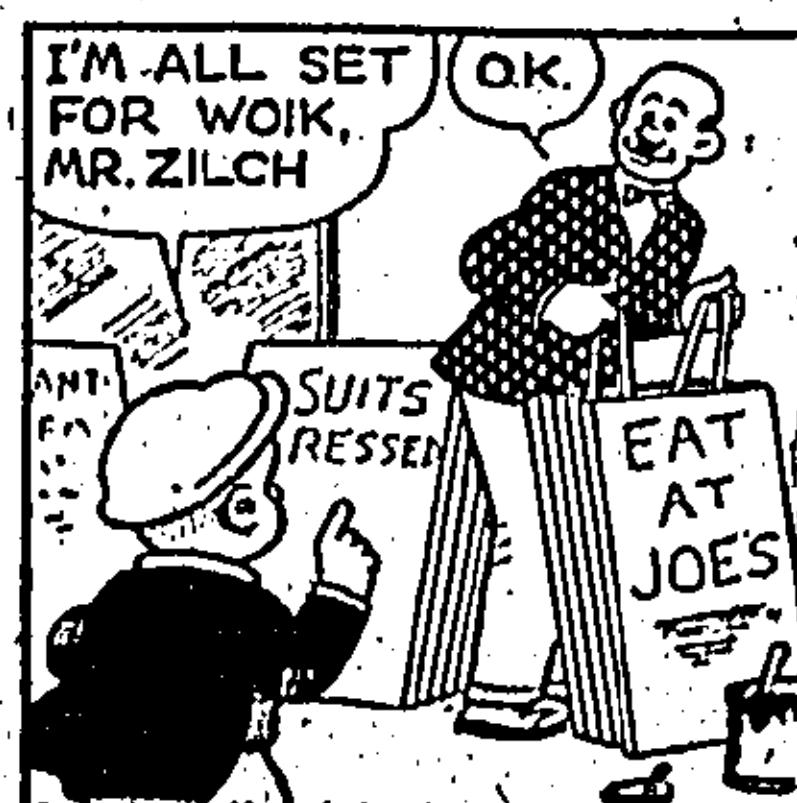
How uncomfortable it is to be wise after the event! The economists were inept; the politicians were false; the cowards were blind—in these moments when history was moving.

Namier's work is an elegant, cynical, factual prelude to the death of millions. Nowhere in it is the voice of those victim millions heard.

JOHN PUDNEY

**Skeleton Crossword**

**NANCY** Not Much Help



By Ernie Bushmiller

**Discovery**

by CHAPMAN PINCHER

**PIGEONS YIELD THE SECRET OF HOW THEY GET HOME . . .**

**THEORY NO. 1.** from Professor G. Ising of Sweden claims that the homing mechanism is in the pigeon's ears.

The earth's spin exerts a tiny force called the Coriolis force on any flying object. Ising says that three canals in each ear, which varies with latitude, and so the bird navigates.

Theory No. 2 suggests that pigeons navigate by the earth's magnetism.

NOW AN American professor—H. L. Yeagley—has carried out experiments which show that both theories are probably correct. The earth's lines of magnetic force cut the latitude lines with the consequence that forces are linked together, like the system used in the Army for map-reading.

At Kearney, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania State College, Yeagley found two such places, no exact map being available to cover the State College, to cover the Nebraska plains. When they were set free next day they made no attempt to get back home, but flew direct to Kearney, where they had never been before.

This confusion would rarely happen to racing pigeons, for except near the Poles, identical crossing points are always several hundreds of miles apart. Two would not occur within a pigeon's normal range.

YEAGLEY found that when a magnet, strong enough to affect the earth's magnetism, is fixed to a pigeon's head, the bird loses its sense of direction. Other experiments have reported that pigeons seem baffled when they fly near a radio station which is transmitting.

Yeagley's results have yet to be confirmed, but they seem to supply the best explanation.

**• MCKENNEY ON BRIDGE**

Squeeze Brings In Spade Grand Slam

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

♦ A J 8 7 6	♦ A 2
♦ Q 8	♦ K 9 8
♦ K 9	♦ Q J 7 6
♦ 8 7	♦ 2
♦ 7 6	

Fehlberg  
♦ A K Q 10 9  
♦ K 6  
♦ A 10 9  
♦ A 10 6

Tournament—Neither vul.

South. West. North. East.

1 ♠ Pass. 2 ♠ Pass.

4 ♠ Pass. 4 ♠ Pass.

5 ♠ Pass. 6 ♠ Pass.

7 ♠ Pass. 7 ♠ Pass.

Opening—♦ Q 27

WHEN I moved to New York in 1934, I honestly felt that midwesterners were better card players than easterners. I always said that the easterners were better bidders, and the reason those in the midwest were better players was that they overbid and had to play well to make their contracts.

Of course that is not true today. There are great bidders and great card players in every state in the Union.

Today's hand was given to me by Harry Fehlberg, who recently moved from Cleveland to New York, where he is associated with the New York Bridge Whist Club.

Some players might like to use the Blackwood convention somewhere during the bidding on this hand. However, experts seldom employ the Blackwood convention. They prefer to show controls and make natural deductions from the bidding. Of course, they do use Blackwood when it is obvious and when they must have information regarding aces and kings which they cannot get otherwise.

It looks as if Fehlberg was going to have a difficult time to make seven-odd. He won the first trick with the king of hearts and cashed the ace of spades, which left only one trump out.

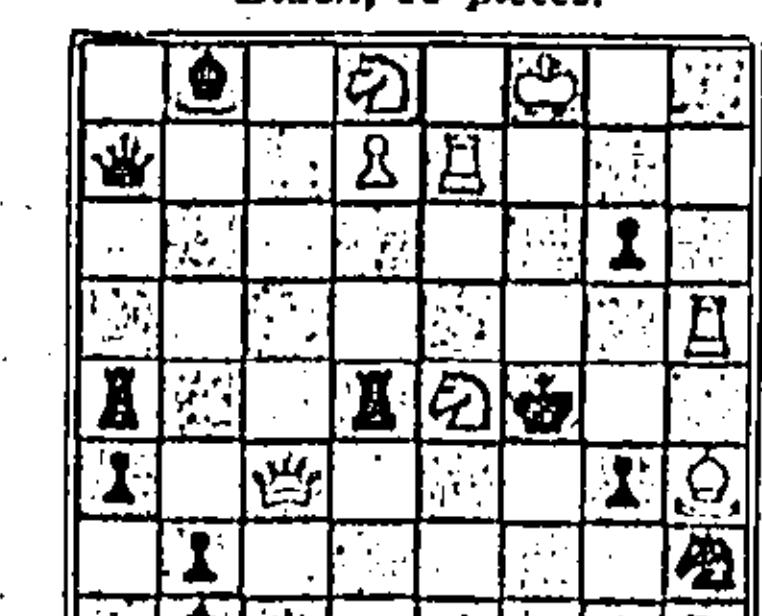
His next play was a small heart to dummy's ace, then he trumps a heart; being careful to trump it with the king. He overlooks the ten of spades in dummy with the jack and trumps dummy's last heart with the queen of spades.

Next he cashes the ace of diamonds, then played the five of spades, winning in dummy with the nine-spot. The eight of spades was cashed, declarer discarding the small diamond. Now the seven of spades was cashed.

At this point East was down to the king of diamonds and the queen-jack-seven of clubs and he was forced to make a discard. If he let go the diamond, dummy's queen would be good. He dropped the seven of clubs, so Fehlberg cashed the king of clubs and won the last two tricks with his ace and ten of clubs.

**CHESS PROBLEM**

By J. J. RIETVELD  
(1st Prize, BCF Tourney 54)  
Black, 12 pieces.



White, 8 pieces.

White to play and mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

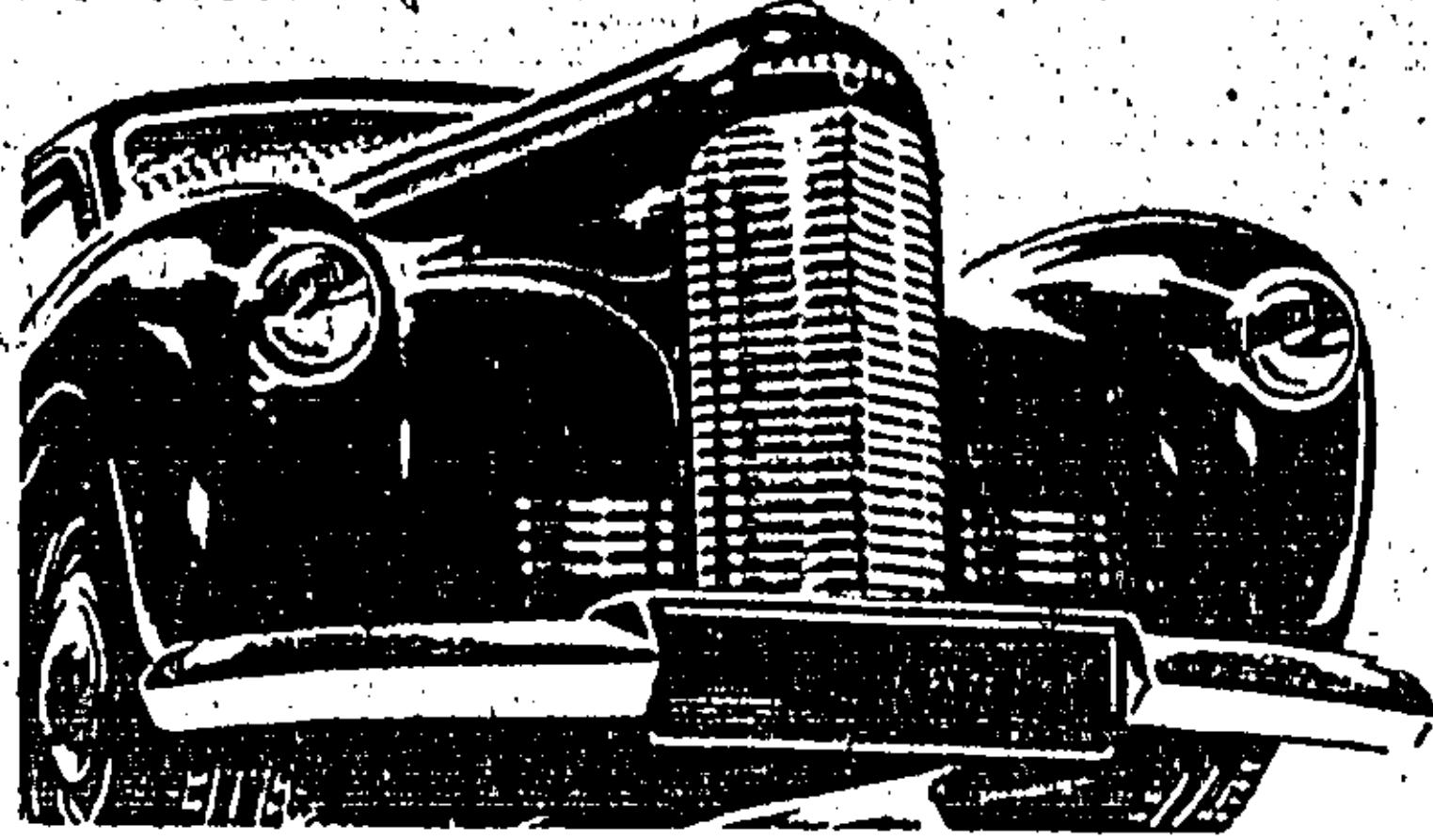
1. R-K6; threat, 2. Kt-Kt5 (dis ch); 1. P-KB5 (dis ch); 1. Kt-K5; 2. Kt-B5 (dbl ch); 1. Kt-B5; 2. Kt-K7 (dbl ch).

**Rupert's Silver Trumpet—31**

The Goliwog hurries back to his model plane and puts the silver trumpet into it. "Don't worry, little bear," he calls, as he takes off and circles round. "You shall have your present. Come back here in an hour's time and see what I send you. Anyway, you would never have enjoyed this trumpet. It's too difficult to blow!" And next moment he whizzes away into the sky. "Isn't this exciting!" cries Rupert. "I wonder what kind of present I shall get..."

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CONTINUING 16 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP . . . THE

**Magnificent Minx**

WITH SYNCHROMATIC FINGER-TIP GEARCHANGE in conjunction with new fully proved, 4-speed smooth action crash-proof Synchromesh Gearbox

Distinguished new appearance. Lockheed hydraulic 2 leading shoe brakes. Stylish fascia panel in translucent grey. Everything—bonnet, interior, luggage—under lock and key. Exceptional enclosed luggage accommodation. Long beam sealed reflector head-lamps. Powered by the famous fully proved Hillman Minx engine. Attractive strong vee-section bumpers at front and rear. Driving seat fully adjustable. Rasil-clean disc wheels.

PLUS the reliability, performance, economy and comfort resulting from 16 years' continuous development.

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A car with a great past... and a great future

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PRODUCTION OF THREE-YEAR GROUP

FROM HERE AND THERE:

**Honours To Canada**

Ottawa.—Coloured banners which adorned Buckingham Palace during the royal wedding last November have been presented to Le Regiment de la Chaudiere and 48th Highlanders of Canada. Princess Elizabeth is Colonel-in-Chief of both these Canadian regiments.

**COMMUNIST KICK-BACK?**

New York.—Damages of £15,000,000 have been claimed in Los Angeles court from various film companies by the 10 Hollywood writers and directors cited by the Congressional Un-American Activities Committee.

**YOUTH LEADS**

Paris.—A 13-year-old boy has been arrested in Valenciennes, northern France, as head of a gang specializing in stealing bicycles. The gang was composed of 15 members, and its chief was the youngest of them.

**LOST & FOUND**

Washington.—The White House trick of losing papers held up the appointment of Sir Oliver Franks as British Ambassador. The Foreign Office despatches asking if Sir Oliver would be acceptable disappeared between the State Department and the White House. They were not found.

London.—Coloured banners which adorned Buckingham Palace during the royal wedding last November have been presented to Le Regiment de la Chaudiere and 48th Highlanders of Canada. Princess Elizabeth is Colonel-in-Chief of both these Canadian regiments.

Johannesburg.—The hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the first responsible government in the British Empire overseas is to be marked next month in Halifax when the Nova Scotia legislature meets. It was on February 2, 1948 that a Ministry which depended on the will of the majority in the Nova Scotia Assembly took office for the first time in the Empire outside the United Kingdom. A plaque commemorating the event is to be unveiled in the Legislature by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, Hon. J. A. D. McCurdy.

**LUXURY AIRBORNE**

Paris.—The "Plane of Elegance" will soon leave Paris bound for Teheran, the first stop on a world tour. On board will be mannequins wearing the latest "New Look," hairdressers' models, furs, fine wines and champagnes. The outfit has been chartered from Air France by Olympia, coiffur to the Duchess of Windsor, and ex-Resistance leader Jean Vittorini credited with being the first Frenchman to enter Bechtelagger with the Allied armies. Their idea is to show the best of French luxury and elegance in a series of exhibitions in world capitals. After Teheran their next stops will be Cairo and Rio de Janeiro.

**BOTTLENECK**

Johannesburg.—Building work on a new 20,000 tons a year cement factory in Natal to relieve the acute shortage of cement has been held up owing to the shortage of cement.

**WASTE NOT . . .**

Johannesburg.—Johannesburg was very nearly paved with gold. The city council bought a dump of waste rock at the Crown Mines and erected a crusher, but it was found that the rock contained three cwt's of gold to the ton, so it is now being put through the mill instead.

**FIGHTS ON ANY TAKER?**

New York.—When "Jersey Joe" Walcott signed a contract to fight Joe Louis in New York on June 23, 23, boxers immediately made Louis a four-to-one favourite.

**ROAST WHALE OF OLD ENGLAND**

Cape Town.—According to an arrival from the Antarctic whaling grounds, the refrigerated ship Rota is now loading 4,000 tons of frozen whalemeat which will be taken to Britain to supplement meat rations. Last year, an experimental 50 tons proved a success.

**ARE YOU SURE? ANSWERS**

Questions on Page 4

1. Call to prayer. 2. Dandelion Taraxacum coffee is made from the roots. Juice of stem-in summer will cure warts. 3. Comic character in newspaper called Al Sloper's Half Holiday. 4. Ararat. 5. Hereford. 6. Flinders Street, Melbourne. 320,000 passengers on one day. 8. Prehistoric structure of stone. 9. Cloak. 10. Nicholas Nickleby.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

Solution of yesterday's puzzle—Across: 1. Somewhere, 6. Erase, 10. Elbow, 12. Agree, 13. Ridge, 14. Rat, 15. Cactus, 16. Nat., 20. Grief, 21. Hinge, 24. Dol., 26. Intone, 27. Ape, 28. Ten, 29. Dates, 30. Gore, 31. Antent. Down: 1. Searching, 2. Organ, 3. Mart, 4. Wee, 5. Herculean, 6. Elated, 7. Rag, 8. Sect, 11. Neas, 12. Agenda, 17. Usage, 19. Enter, 22. Into, 23. Gone, 25. Best, 27. Ate.

## QUEEN'S &amp; ALHAMBRA

## WATCH FOR OPENING DATE

Stars of: "THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIFE" & "THE LOST WEEK-END"



## EASTER ATTRACTION

A MUSICAL MASTERPIECE FROM AMERICA'S MELODY MASTER!

Irving Berlin's



IT'S THE NEAREST THING TO HEAVEN!

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Organised by the Women's Auxiliary of the H.K.S.P.C.

## GALA PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

## of CARNEGIE HALL

(by kind permission of UNITED ARTISTS and The Management, Lee Theatre)

## LEE THEATRE

on MARCH 23 at 9.20 p.m.

under the distinguished patronage of H.E. The Governor & Lady Grantham PROCEEDS TO THE SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Tickets now on Sale at:

MOUTRIE & CO., York Building.

## After Seeing Europe's Misery, Ex-Emperor Bao Dai Says—

## THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HONGKONG!

Ex-Emperor Bao Dai emphatically refused to discuss politics ("Do not let us mix tea with the savour of politics," he smilingly pleaded) when a Telegraph reporter interviewed him this week, but he was willing to talk enthusiastically about his impressions of England, France and Switzerland which he recently visited.

I met Bao Dai, reports our representative, at a gathering of friends among whom were Prince Vinh Can and Mr Huynh Thien Thinh.

He speaks fluent and impeccable French as befitting his studies at the Ecole Des Sciences Politiques in France, and as we talked together in his Repulse Bay residence, his conversation wandered from music to sports, with special emphasis on golf (at which he is adept), hunting (at which he is reputed to be daring) and fishing (which he obviously enjoys).

But he reserved his chief enthusiasm for his recent visit to Europe.

FIRST ADVENTURE His first adventure on the outward journey, made by BOAC flying-boat, was at Karachi, where he and his party had to put up in small bungalows and were confined in them most of the time because of the trouble which had broken out between the Moslems and Hindus. They found Karachi a town of barbed-wire entanglements and an atmosphere of the deepest tension. The ex-Emperor and his party spent a week in England, where they learned what austerity living means. Entertained to dinner at Cambridge University, the visitors ex-

pressed mild surprise that no bread was visible on the table.

Politely they were told that if they had bread, they would have to do without dessert.

The meal, which was common to all, consisted of one main course—liver and potatoes—and dessert.

## RICE A LUXURY

Bao Dai soon discovered that rice in England today is a luxury, but he paid a warm tribute to the fair way in which the nation's meager rations are being distributed.

From London the Bao Dai party proceeded to Geneva where the ex-Emperor had important talks with M. Emile Bollaert, the French High Commissioner for Indo-China at the famous Hotel des Indes where all diplomats meet after conferences.

Switzerland, Bao Dai found, remains untouched by two world wars and has become the "Paradise of Europe."

Amongst other activities Bao Dai visited a watchmaking factory where he learnt the secret of the accuracy of Swiss watches. They are set every night by the movement of a certain star until the movement of the watches is adjusted to it.

France, which Bao Dai could remember once as being the "any land of moonlight and roses," he found in the grip of cold and hunger. But he also discovered that Paris is determined still to lead the world of fashion, and the "New Look" was all the rage.

## HIGH COST OF FOOD

Bao Dai was shocked by the lean and pale faces of the poorer classes, and somewhat startled by the high cost of food.

An ordinary plain meal for four persons cost 10,000 francs, and once, when the ex-Emperor and his friends were invited out to tea, they were astonished to see guests producing their own sugar from their coat pockets.

On his return journey to Hongkong, Bao Dai put in at Cairo, and like most other visitors to that city, took the opportunity of a camel ride to the Pyramids and the ancient Egyptian tombs.

His general reactions to the misery he had seen in Europe was summed up by his wistful observation: "There's no place like Hongkong."

## U.S. Shelves Partition Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

"The limited functions which the General Assembly offered to undertake in connection with the Palestine recommendation stand or fall with that resolution.

"If it proves impossible to give effect to that resolution, the United Nations will have, on May 15, no administrative and governmental responsibilities for Palestine unless further action is taken by the Assembly.

## NO AGREEMENT

"The Security Council now has before it clear evidence that the Jews and Arabs of Palestine and the mandatory power cannot agree to implement the General Assembly's plan of partition through peaceful means.

"The announced determination of the mandatory power to terminate the mandate on May 15, if carried out by the United Kingdom, would result, in the light of information now available, in chaos and heavy fighting in Palestine.

"The United Nations cannot permit such a result.

"The loss of life in the Holy Land must be brought to an immediate end.

"The maintenance of international peace is at stake.

"Under the Charter, the Security Council has both an inescapable responsibility, as well as a full authority to take the steps necessary to bring about a cease-fire in Palestine and a halt to the incursions being made into that country.

"The powers of Articles 30, 40, 41 and 42 are very great and the Council should not hesitate to use them all of them if necessary to stop the fighting.

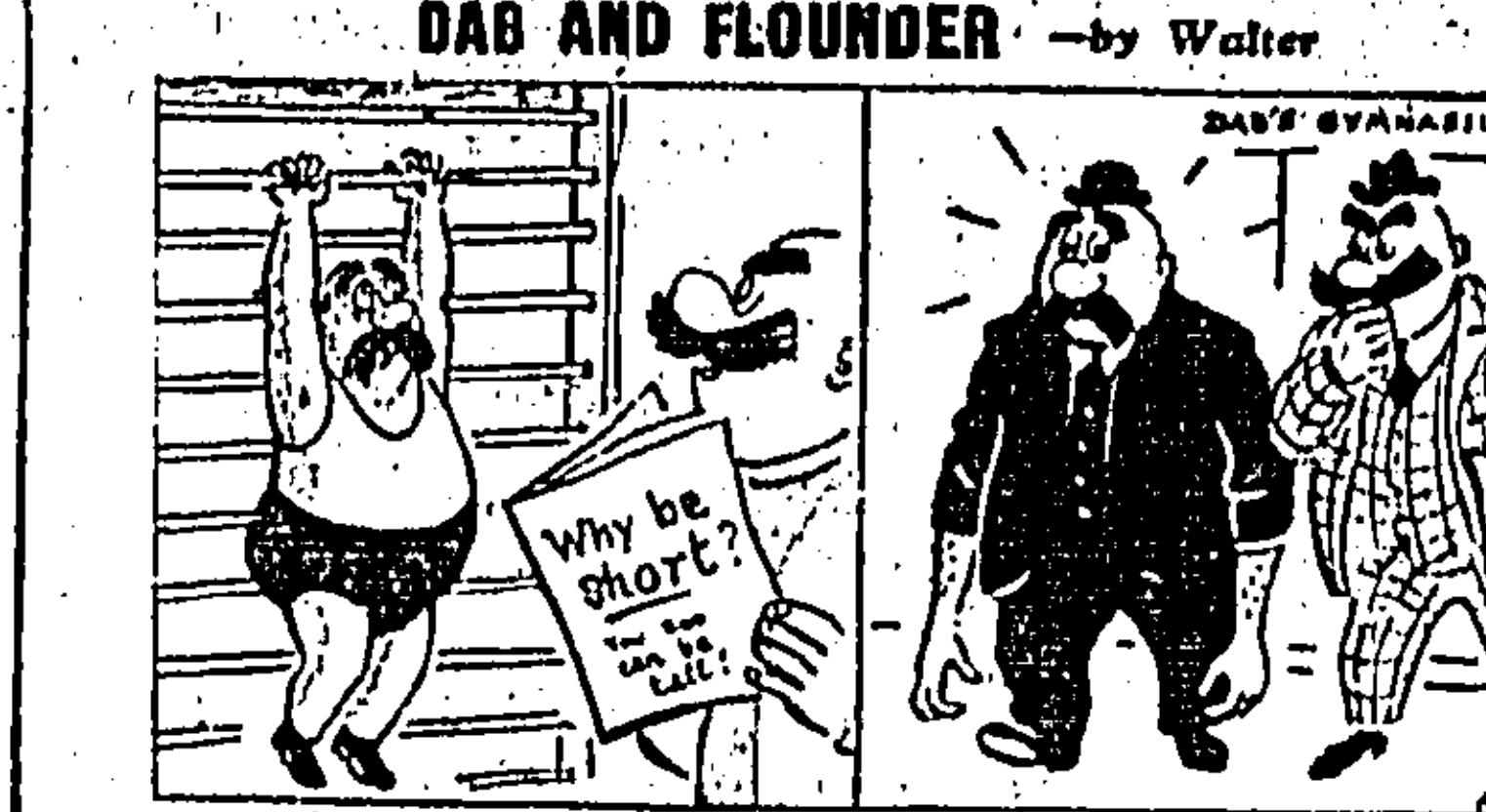
"Pending a meeting of the General Assembly, we believe that the Security Council should instruct the Palestine Commission to suspend its efforts to implement the proposed partition plan. A draft resolution which would give effect to the above suggestions will be circulated shortly for the consideration of the Security Council."—Reuter.

## POSTAGE RATES FOR SERVICES

London, Mar. 19.—The postage rates of letters, postcards and parcels sent by sea to members of the forces abroad are to be as follows on April 1:

"Letters will be 2½d for the first ounce, and 1d for each succeeding ounce, and postcards will be 2d. Parcels will cost 1/3d up to three pounds weight, 2/3d up to seven pounds; 3/6d up to 11 pounds and 5/6d up to 22 pounds.

No alteration is being made in the surface mail rate of newspapers and printed papers, or in airmail rates. The special lightweight "Forces" letter will continue at existing rate of 2½d.—Reuter.



## WORLD SPORT:

## Tragedy Mars Chase On Grand National Course

Liverpool, Mar. 19.—A tragedy marked Aintree's £2,000 three-mile champion chase, run over part of the Grand National course here today, when Mr William Porter's seven-year-old, Cavaliero, regarded as one of the most brilliant young chasers in Britain, dropped dead after finishing third.

Cavaliero was in front of a class field including the Irish chaser, Mr J. V. Rank's Keep Faith, running today in preference to tomorrow's Grand National, when he came to the final jump. Down he came. His jockey quickly remounted to take third-place, amid thunderous applause.

With this acclamation ringing in his ears, the horse dropped dead on reaching the paddock.

The race was won by Mr Frank More O'Farrell's Luan Casen, who started at seven to one. Keep Faith, who was joint favourite with Cavaliero, crashed at the thorn fence before Bechers.—Reuter.

## LIVERPOOL SPRING CUP.

Liverpool, Mar. 19.—Mr. J. Hefferton's Portmanneau Tony won the Liverpool Spring Cup by a neck from Mr. W. Nightingale's Command Performance, with Mr. J. Rogerson's Silver Pencil a head away in third place of the 12 runners.

The betting was 100-6 on Portmanneau, 6-1 Command Performance and seven-1 Silver Pencil.

Kilbelin and Bristol Fashion, of the probabilities, were non-runners, while Dancing Flame was ridden by Mr. J. Bruce.

Orient, the mount of Mr Gordon Richards, was left 15 lengths at the start and finished last. The early pace was set by Law Suit with Dissipation, Sturt, Portmanneau and Crusaders Horn following, then Crusaders Horn ran into second place to Law Suit, followed by Sturt, Portmanneau, Bridle Path and Diesel.

The runners entered the straight in that order, but shortly afterwards

Law Suit weakened and Crusaders Horn went on, followed by the others. A furlong from the finish, Crusaders Horn was in front of Portmanneau and Bridle Path, but Command Performance, Hal O the Wynd, and Silver Pencil were making ground.

Portmanneau took the lead within sight of home and resisted challenges from Command Performance, Silver Pencil and Hal O the Wynd to win by a neck in two minutes 18.4 seconds.—Reuter.

## NON-RUNNER

London, Mar. 19.—M. Barker's 10-year-old Brighter Sandy is tame and will not run in Saturday's Grand National steeplechase at Aintree, Trainer Willie Hall said today.

Brighter Sandy was a 50-1 shot in the last betting call-over in London.—Associated Press.

## KCC TENNIS TOURNEY.

If weather permits, the Kowloon Cricket Club Americans mixed doubles tennis tournament, postponed from last week, will be held tomorrow (Sunday afternoon) at 2.15.

Entries will be accepted up to the time play begins.

## March of Timo's

## "SOVIET NEIGHBOUR"

at the KING'S THEATRE

Sat., 20th March

Sun., 21st March

10.30 a.m., 11.45 a.m., 1 p.m.

Three Morning Shows

ADMISSION ONE DOLLAR

Pathé's

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